

# LEARNING RESOURCE

## SEED BOMBS

### MATERIALS

- Soil (100g)
- Clay (100g)
- Seed packet (Wildflower or any other)
- Bowl and spoon
- 100ml Water

### PREPERATION

- None required

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Weigh out 100g soil and 100g clay into a bowl and mix using the spoon. Add in packet of seeds and mix until distributed evenly.
2. Measure out 100ml water and add to the dry ingredients, mix in with a spoon until a sticky dough consistency is formed.
3. If mixture is too dry you may need to add more water a few drops at a time to get the correct consistency.
4. Get your hands into the mixture and start rolling small ball-shaped seed bombs. You are aiming for around 2cm diameter for each bomb. You should be able to make around 20 bombs from this mixture.
5. Leave to dry for 24 hours then distribute around your garden, at least 20cm apart in sunny locations that need a splash of colour. No need to water or plant them, just let nature do it's thing.

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## EXTENSION

- What are the perfect conditions that your seeds will need to grow?
- Why not plant one seed bomb in a pot inside your house so that you can take a closer look at how the seeds develop?
- Can you make a diary to show how your seeds develop over time?

## SCIENCE BEHIND THE SEED BOMB

The compost and clay act as a carrier for the seeds 'But what is the point? Why can't you just throw seeds loose?' Most seeds are very light and there is risk of them being blown away by the wind or eaten by birds. The compost offers nutrients for the seeds to germinate and grow strong during their infancy and the clay binds the seed bomb, making it hard enough not to break when it hits the ground. Seedbombing is another form of seed dispersal, a human intervention into what is already happening in nature anyway. It is an efficient way of deliberately dispersing seeds.

After about three weeks the first seedlings work their way through the seed bomb and root into the ground below. The seedlings will then shoot up and grow into mature plants and face whatever conditions Mother Nature has in store for them. As they grow, more seeds germinate and the seedbomb begins to dissolve. This can take days, weeks or months – it depends on the amount of rainfall we have.