

The world around us has changed. Our lives may appear to have slowed, but it's Mother Nature's time to flourish. We see plants popping up in unusual places and animals wandering into new spaces. Wind patterns are changing and the hole in the ozone layer has even started to repair itself. This level of growth is a great reminder that, despite our calls to stay at home, life (all life, not just human life) goes on. These activities are designed so that you can examine the growth that continues to occur, even in the most improbable spaces.

- How does growth parallel life?
- How does nature inspire you?
- How can we minimise our negative impact on the natural world?
- How can we allow nature to flourish?



Nature Always Wins

"In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks." - John Muir

Whether we sit in front of our devices and explore the world virtually, take a walk in our neighbourhood, or explore our own state and other parts of the country, we can see the evidence of nature all around us. The sun shines, rain falls, and things grow. This short activity asks you to explore the natural world and find evidence of where nature wins. How does growth parallel life?

Instructions

Go outside and explore your environment, whether it's urban, suburban, or rural. Look out for nature in unexpected places, inhabiting spaces previously reserved for people.

Take three photos, or find some online, of where you see nature overcoming the human presence. Find one element in your photos that reflects on how natural growth parallels your life. Share your reflection in one paragraph or a 30-second video.





Animal and Nature Cams

Visiting animals in their natural environment can sometimes be tricky. If you are able to travel right now, see what animals you can spot in the wild or visit a wildlife sanctuary. Many Zoos, Aquariums and Sanctuaries all over Australia have set up 24/7 live streaming cameras so no matter what's going on in the world, we can still take a moment to watch what some of our favourite animals are getting up to at any time of the day!

- Taronga Zoo see Penguins, Meerkats, Otters, Elephants, Tigers, and more https://taronga.org.au/taronga-tv
- Zoo's Victoria see Giraffes, Zebras, Lions, Snow Leopard cubs, and more https://www.zoo.org.au/animals-at-home
- Loan Pine Koala Sanctuary see cute Koalas cuddling up together https://koala.net/webcams
- Zoos South Australia see Giant Pandas, the Southern White Rhino and Chimpanzees https://www.zoossa.com.au/zoo-to-you/

Create Your Own Home Garden

Have you ever wanted to minimise your impact on the natural world? Travelling to grocery stores and purchasing food that has travelled across the country can take a huge toll on our environment. On several of our travel programs, we explore cultures that thrive on small, sustainable, local farms.

Here is a great way to start using your kitchen leftovers and a few other materials.

Instructions

First, watch this episode of *Modern Gardener* from PBS for a quick introduction to growing food from kitchen scraps.



Then, use this activity sheet to learn more about kitchen scrap gardening from KidsGardening.org: https://bit.ly/KidsGardeningWorksheet

Finally, get creative with your growing containers and enjoy (and share them with us, of course)!