

**MAKE IT**

**THE  
GROWING  
SCHOOLS GARDEN**

**LEARNING OUTSIDE  
THE CLASSROOM**

Meadow

# Terracotta army



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## A terracotta army made from flowers and minibeasts



### Description

Drawing inspiration from the dramatic Terracotta Army (a collection of over 8000 life-sized terracotta figures of warriors and horses discovered near Xian in China) children of all ages and abilities from the participating schools and settings can create a terracotta plant or animal which will make up an 'army' of plants and animals in the meadow area.

### Function

Terracotta models of native meadow plants and animals can be created to show the diversity of species supported in a meadow environment.

### Construction

#### Sizes

Various sizes are possible but the majority should be around 15-20cm. Numerous exhibits and styles are required but as a guide up to 50 can be accommodated in the meadow.



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## Construction Materials:

Any materials, including clay. Any colour, shape and form. The models should be weatherproof.

## Contributing schools

### Portway Junior School, Hampshire

In Year 5 we made clay flowers. A professional potter came in to show us how to make them. We used terracotta clay from the ground and put it in a kiln to set. We used a paper template to get the shape of our flower. Then we very carefully cut out the paper template with scissors. We had to flatten out the clay to 1cm thick then, using the templates, we cut out the different shapes with a blunt knife.



While our partner was cutting out the shapes the other was putting slip on the edges of the cone and petals. Once we had put the slip on and the cone had been rolled into shape we started to attach the petals onto the cone. We took some primrose leaves and pressed down firmly onto the clay to make an imprint of the primrose leaf. Then we cut them out and painted them with pre-glaze which made them look dark green. We painted the petals yellow. Harrow Way School very kindly let us use their kiln to harden our clay flowers.



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Right at the end of the process we had to put a wire in the flower so it would have a stem. We also used the wire to attach our leaves. For our stamens we used wire and clay beads. We enjoyed making our clay flowers, it took a long three weeks to make them look like primroses.



## **Perranporth County Primary School, Cornwall**

Younger children have created a terracotta army of meadow creatures. Other garden creatures have been created using willow. These techniques are regularly employed by the school in the designing-and-making work so enjoyed by the children.





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## Oak Grove

We made a large meadow sculpture from metal with clay seed heads.



*'I enjoyed making the clay flowers for the Hampton Court Flower Show.'*  
Lucy, aged 12.





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## In the Growing Schools Garden





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