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From The Principal's Desk

'When gardeners garden, it is not just plants that grow, but the gardeners themselves.'

'Nature does not hurry yet everything is accomplished.'

I do some of my best thinking while pulling weeds as
I love my garden and trees. If you have never experienced the joy of accomplishing more than you can imagine, create a garden.

Garden gives a sense of ecstasy and this becomes a dictum to live with.

School is a metaphor for garden of life. In that, children are compared right from sowing of seeds, growing of plants, trees borne with branches and leaves, sprouting flowers and fruits as the end products. They altogether make a complete balance in life to live with.

Right from pre-primary until grade 12 they are cultured to fully grown adult as ripen fruits on the trees, finally get ready to fall off from the trees as developed individuals.

Garden gives a boost to enhance the moods of individuals. With this process of gardening, it reduces the stress level, enhances the immunity, encourages mindfulness and strengthen the mental health. We as educators, burn the calories to sow the seeds, nurture the saplings to plant and then to trees with fruits borne on it.

One has to scaffold the erection, see the quality and texture of fruits so that it goes out with a brand product in the market. These fruits are then handled by the highly experienced people to engineer with their intricate finishing touches giving them an improved quality of life and a bright future ahead.

We want our garden to look like this and would develop fruits year after year.

What Type of a Gardener are You?



You already know you're a plant person, but there are different types of gardening enthusiasts on this green Earth. Find out which of these relatable growers you identify with the most.

1

If you had to pick **JUST ONE** plant to grow in your garden, which would it be?

- a) rose
- b) cucumber plant
- c) money plant

2

Which of these Indian plants is your favourite?

- a) mogra / jasmine
- b) mint
- c) tomato

3

Which is your favourite creepy-crawly in the garden?

- a) butterfly
- b) earthworm
- c) grasshopper

4

When is your favourite time in the garden?

- a) first thing in the morning
- b) during the rains
- c) at dusk/night

5

If you could add one new thing to your garden, what would it be?

- a) wind chime
- b) compost pit
- c) pond

6

Which of the following makes you smile the most?

- a) seeing some flowers have bloomed
- b) seeing that there's a fruit growing
- c) seeing an earthworm and a centipede



7

Which of these rather special plants would you like to grow?

- a) bird of paradise flower
- b) guava tree
- c) venus fly-trap

8

A fairy godmother grants you a week's vacation Where would you like to go?

- a) garden
- b) orchards
- c) jungle

9

Your friends and family describe your garden as:

- a) beautiful
- b) organic
- c) unkempt

10

When you go to the garden you are first drawn to:

- a) flowers
- b) fruits
- c) trees

Almost finished...

Well done, you're nearly there! One last thing: just complete this sentence in less than ten words:

"I really love gardening because

....."

OK, now it's time to find out the results!



Mostly (a)s

You sound like a young **landscape architect** in the making!
 It's the sight and 'feel' of a garden that really appeals to you.
 Your ideal outdoor space would be full of interesting shapes, vibrant colours and wonderful scents.

Mostly (b)s

You're a bit of a **back-garden farmer**.
 Nothing appeals to you about gardening quite so much as the chance to 'grow your own.'
 Your ideal garden is one which would give you plenty of opportunity to grow what you can eat.

Mostly (c)s

You're a born **nature warden** and from your point of view, a garden is all about the wildlife that lives in it, or pops in for a visit.
 Your ideal garden will be full of all sorts of wildlife-friendly plants that would allow the birds, bees and other wild friends a place to call home.





Upcycled Planters



Reusing and repurposing items is one of the better ways to prevent harm to nature than many other alternatives. This includes the reusing of general and plastic waste in order to facilitate better growth in our environment. Such a case is displayed in the picture.

One can add an artistic element to make their garden a pleasure for the eyes to view. The picture shows a koala hanging from a rope with a potted plant growing from it. Originally, the koala was created from a thick plastic bottle, similar to those in which soft drinks are served. Its reusing has created a piece of art that attracts people to the garden as well as being a good alternative to regular plastic or mud pots.

- Verushka Mamodia 9 F





Upcycled Planters



Not straying too far from the earlier topic, we can find a use for unused mud pots or plastic and ceramic containers as well. They can fulfil the role of being a spot where natural fertilisers are created, mainly through composting. While composting is mainly practised outside, it can be done indoors as well. It is just as important to apply new soil to the compost bin every 7 days, and regularly mix it with food scraps and newspaper shreds (to absorb excess water). Composting can occur at any temperature, so it is preferred to store it in a closed space, to avoid accidentally making the bin fall.

Once the compost is ready, you can use it and spread it over your garden or houseplants. This picture shows a possible plastic bin which can be used for composting. Such a bin is cheap and can be used in an efficient manner, making it beneficial to the plants.

- Ananya Singh 9 F





DID YOU KNOW?




Dragonflies have been around on Earth since before the dinosaurs.



Sunflowers move throughout the day in response to the movement of the sun from east to west.



Some worms have ten hearts.





The average strawberry contains 200 seeds. It is the only fruit that has seeds on the outside.

The typical mature tree can provide enough wood to make 170,100 pencils.




Cucumber is a fruit and not a vegetable since it has seeds in the centre!

Caterpillars have 12 eyes.



Fruit flies were the first living creatures to be sent into space.




The fastest-growing plant in the world is the Burmese bamboo. It can grow up to 91 cm per day. That's almost 4 cm an hour. You could actually watch it grow.



Carrots were originally purple in colour.



Butterflies and caterpillars use their feet to taste.



The world's largest flower is the Rafflesia. It can grow to be 3.3 feet in diameter and can weigh up to 11 kg.

The scientific name for spiders is Arachnid.



The Backyard Talks

Variety, they say is the spice of life. Truly so. In my backyard kitchen garden I grow a variety of vegetables, fruits and spices too. Kitchen gardens are the new way to organic living and a major factor in food self-sufficiency. The variety of vegetables that can be grown in a small backyard is quite mind-boggling and with it the joy of gardening it brings is immense.

From tomatoes to carrots, beans to peas, cabbage to cauliflower, ginger to pepper the choice is mine to make. Setting up a kitchen garden is not difficult. All you need is little patience and a little bit of planning.

Once you get going then the chances are you would not get vegetables from your local vegetable vendor. The taste, freshness and yes the cost savings makes the effort worthwhile and of course its pesticide-free food. It is a relaxing activity, removes the boredom from life and is a good form of exercise.

A few flower pots with colourful flowers add to the beauty of the garden. So start now and set up small patch in your backyard and next time you need a few tomatoes or carrots just extend your hand and get them fresh & free and of course, round the clock.

- Madhav Menon 9 F



Composting is nature's way of recycling. Compost can be used on top of your soil. Mixing compost into the soil gives the soil better structure, nutrients and helps it hold in moisture as well.



You will need

- an empty 2 litre bottle (make sure it is transparent)
- raw food scraps (vegetables/fruit peel, tea bags, coffee grounds, raw leftovers)
- soil, scissors and water spray bottle

Method

- 1) Remove the label and rinse your soda bottle.
- 2) Cut the top off the bottle (the end with the lid). (Take help of an adult)
- 3) Throw a handful of soil into the bottom of the bottle. Follow this with a handful of food scraps. Repeat this process until the bottle is full, finishing with a layer of soil.
- 4) Once your bottle is full, spray the bottle with water (it shouldn't be too wet, but should be damp).
- 5) Place your composter in a sunny spot. When the soil on top dries out, spray with water to maintain a constant level of moisture.
- 6) Watch and wait as your food scraps decompose and turn to soil. You will need some patience as the whole process will take about eight weeks.
- 7) Take photos of the bottle once a week so that you can compare changes that take place from week to week.



What can you Compost:

Browns - Leaves, pine needles, sawdust, wood chips, uncoated paper - source of carbon

Greens - Fresh grass clippings, vegetable scraps, weeds - source of nitrogen

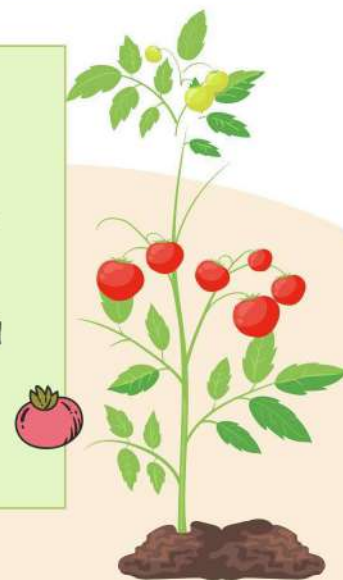
Mixed Ingredients - Moss, coffee grounds, tea bags, flower



What you can't Compost:

Meat scraps, bones, dairy products, pet wastes

Seeds and tuberous plants, diseased plants, waste that attracts pests



Create some fun and interesting items at home. Always be safe, take help from an adult and do the following activities:

Potpourri



YOU WILL NEED

Any type of flower petals, cloves, and orange peels and cinnamon sticks, decorative bowl, essential oils (optional)

HOW TO MAKE

- Put all the ingredients in a decorative bowl.
- Give it a good mix and can also add a few drops of essential oils (optional) to the mixer.
- The ingredients together will combine to create a great smelling and looking mixture to perfume your room.

Bath Salt



YOU WILL NEED

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup epsom salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sea salt (like the Pink Himalayan salt for the colour, but any sea salt will do), cup baking soda, red food colour (optional), rose petals, any essential oil (tea tree or rose), a mixing bowl, mason jar, whisker and a spoon

HOW TO MAKE

- Start by adding epsom salt, sea salt, and baking soda to a mixing bowl.
- Add 2-3 drops of red food colour (optional) and give it a good mix.
- Then add 5-6 drops of the essential oils and rose petals.
- Now whisk everything together using a whisker.
- Using a spoon pour the mixture into the mason jar.
- Volia! Your salt bath is ready to use.
- You can add 1-2 spoons of the salt bath in the bucket of water and enjoy a calming bath.



Plantable Seed Paper

YOU WILL NEED

1 cup of tiny pieces of used paper, large bowl of warm water, blender, mixing bowl, flat tray, plastic wrap or butter paper, food colour (optional), rough cloth, any plant seeds (coriander, mustard, lemon, flowers and so on.)

HOW TO MAKE

- Soak the paper pieces in the bowl of warm water overnight.
- Put the soaked paper into the blender and fill it half with fresh water.
- Blend until the mixture is pulpy.
- Add food colour, if desired, and then transfer it to the mixing bowl.
- Squeeze the water from the pulp, and make sure there aren't any large chunks of paper in it.
- Next, add a handful of seeds to the paper pulp and mix the seeds into the pulp using your hands or a spoon.
- Place the plastic wrap or butter paper on the tray and pour the pulp. Try to spread the pulp fairly thin, as a thick layer will take longer to dry.
- Use a cloth to press as much water as possible from the pulp, and leave the pulp to dry for at least 24 hours.
- Decorate or write your message with markers on the unseeded side.
- You have created a seed paper and it is ready to be used or gifted to your relatives or friends.



TO PLANT THE PAPER

- Lay it on the surface of the soil and sprinkle about one-quarter-inch thick layer of soil on top.
- Water the soil lightly and keep the seeds wet until they sprout and have a few days to grow roots.



Principal's garden photograph

Ms. Soma Chatterjee, Principal



Through My Lens



Shambhavi 9F



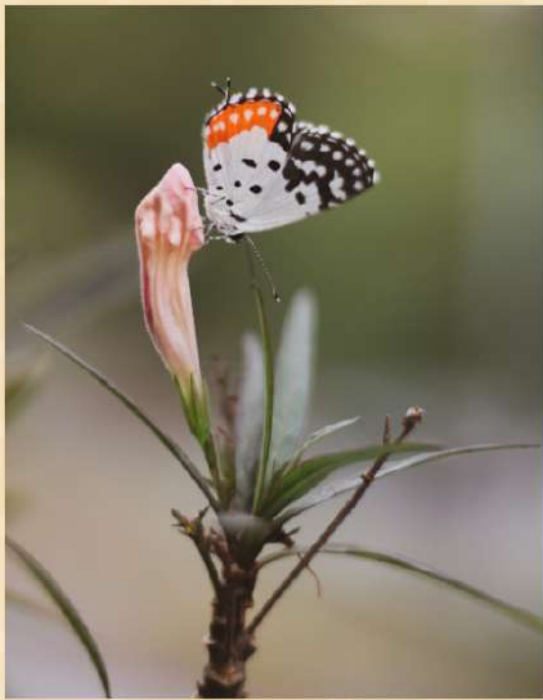
**Verushka
Mamodia 9F**



Through My Lens



Geethika Konetti 9F



Verushka Mamodia 9F

**Shambhavi
9F**



Through My Lens



Shambhavi 9F



Verushka Mamodia 9F

**Ananya
Singh 9F**





Shambhavi 9F



**Verushka
Mamodia 9F**



Verushka Mamodia 9F



Careers

If you're fascinated by plants or insects, and want to pursue a career around them, the best thing to do is identify your particular interests and strengths. Working with plants or insects can be both creative and scientific. That way, you can choose the appropriate speciality or focus area for you.

If your answer is yes, there are many careers that you can opt to be a part of such as these:

Horticulturist (Pomology, Olericulture, Viticulture, Floriculture & so on.)

Farmer

Plant Morphologist

Perfumer/Fragrance Chemist

Plant / Soil Scientist

Microbiologist

Landscaper

Forest Ranger

Plant Biologist

Ecologist

Botanist

Entomologist

Beekeeper



Easy Monaco Spiders



Ingredients

Monaco biscuits
Carrot/Cucumber/Tomato sticks
Cream/Mayonnaise and Choco chip for eyes
Peanut butter/Cheese spread to put in between two biscuits.

Strawberry Ladybugs



Ingredients

Strawberry
Grapes
Toothpicks
Chocolate sauce

Healthy Fruit Bug



Ingredients

Toothpicks
Any fruits/vegetables of your choice
Chocolate sauce & Mint leaves for decoration

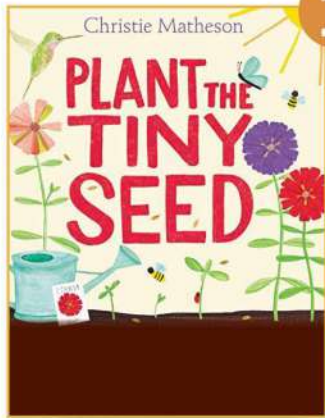
Banana Caterpillar Snack



Ingredients

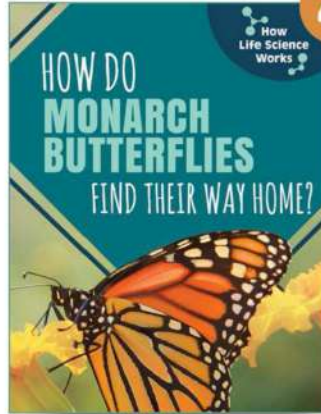
Banana
Fennel candy(saunf)/Gems/ Rainbow sprinklers
(Please Note: You can use different ingredients for decoration of your choice.)

Book Recommendations



1

Plant the Tiny Seed
By Christie Matheson



4

How Do Monarch Butterflies Find Their Way Home?
By Kip Almsy



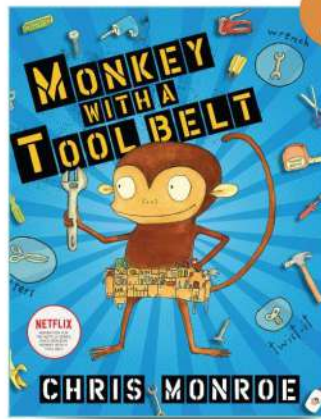
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In The Garden
By Emma Giuliani



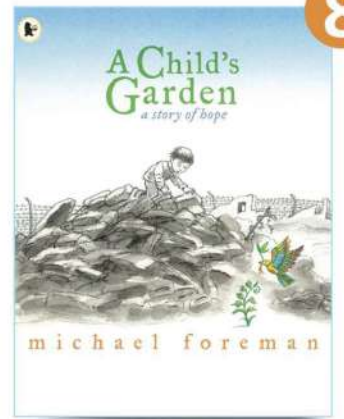
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Tap the Magic Tree
By Christie Matheson



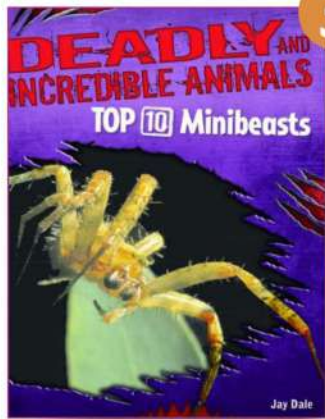
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Monkey with a Tool Belt
By Chris Monroe



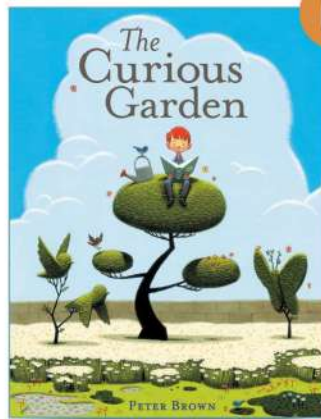
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A Child's Garden
By Michael Foreman



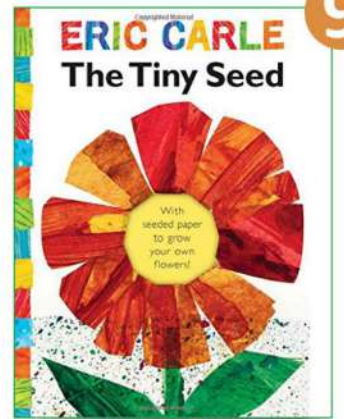
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Top 10 Minibeasts
By Jay Dale



6

Monkey with a Tool Belt
By Chris Monroe



9

The Tiny Seed
By Eric Carle



Nature Artwork



Ansh Kute 2-A



Sambodhi Tambe
3-C



Nature Artwork



Arnav Loni 3-A



Kashvi Shetty 3-C



Smeet Milind Patil



Spot The Difference

Can you identify 6 differences between the two pictures?



Word Search

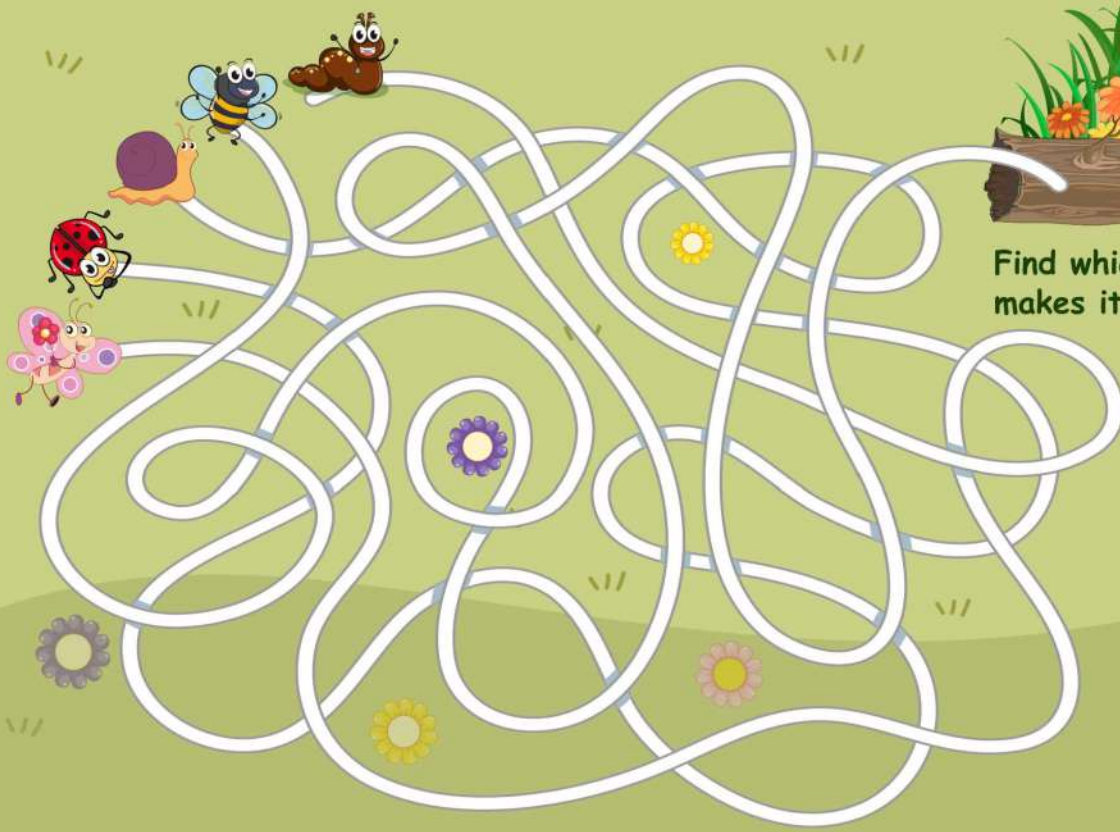
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| C | N | E | R | O | A | H | S | R | I | M | N | C | R |
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| M | E | L | H | O | N | E | S | S | U | C | L | L | E |

Solstice
Hummingbird
Daisy
Honeysuckle
Petunia

Verbena
Ladybug
Hiking
Blue Spruce

Starlight
Serviceberry
Creek
Robin
Watermelon

Explore
Lavender
Sunshine
Fox



Find which creepy crawly makes its way to the log.

Firm & Yellow



Brown Tips or Edges



Dry air or contact bruising. Also possible watering issues-check for other symptoms

Spotty or Patchy



Crisp & brown = underwatering
Soft & dark brown = overwatering

Wilting



Calcium in compost of lime-hating plants

Underwatering or waterlogging. Too much light, heat or dry air also possible

Leaf Doctor

What does the leaf say?

Falling Yellow Leaves



Over watering or cold draughts

Lower Leaves Dried & Falling



Too little light, too much heat, underwatering

Curled & Fallen



Too little heat, over watering or cold draughts

Shock from sudden temperature change or light intensity, or dryness at root

Sudden Leaf Fall



Dull & Lifeless



Too much light, dirty or dusty leaves

Leaf Fall on New Plant



Sometimes due to movement or light shock



Saumya Tripathi 1B



Tavish Shetty 3B



Parthasarathi Debnath 2F

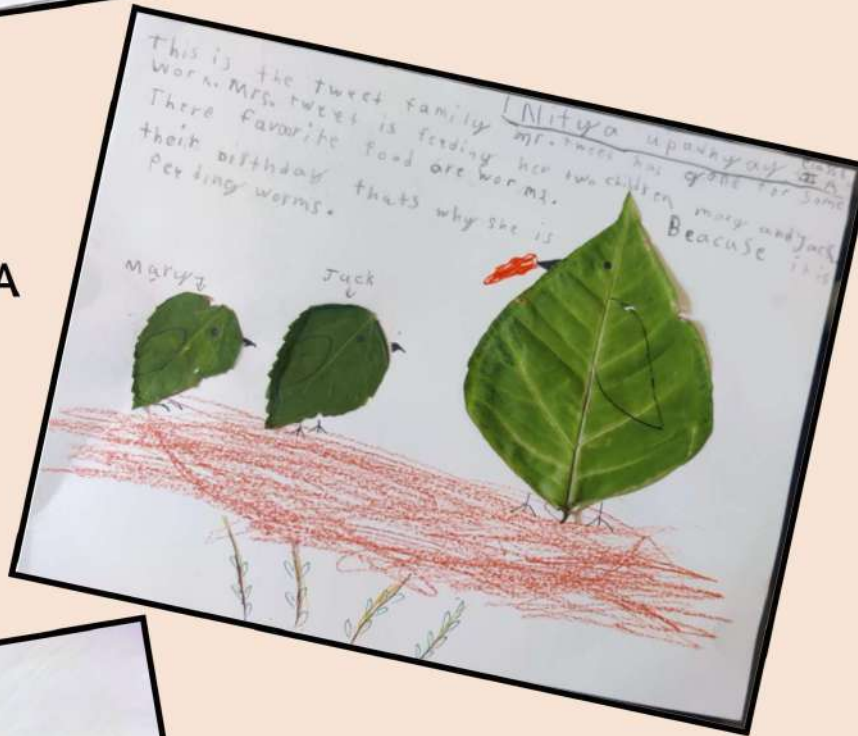




Sabyasachi Debnath 2F

Sabyasachi
Debnath 2F
PIS Nerul
CBSE

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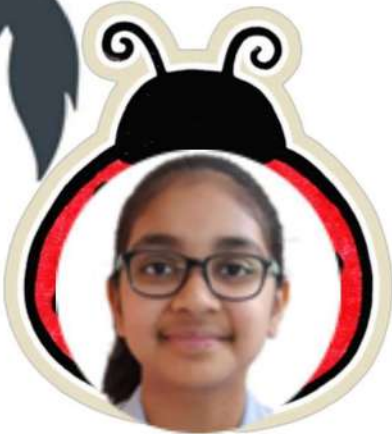


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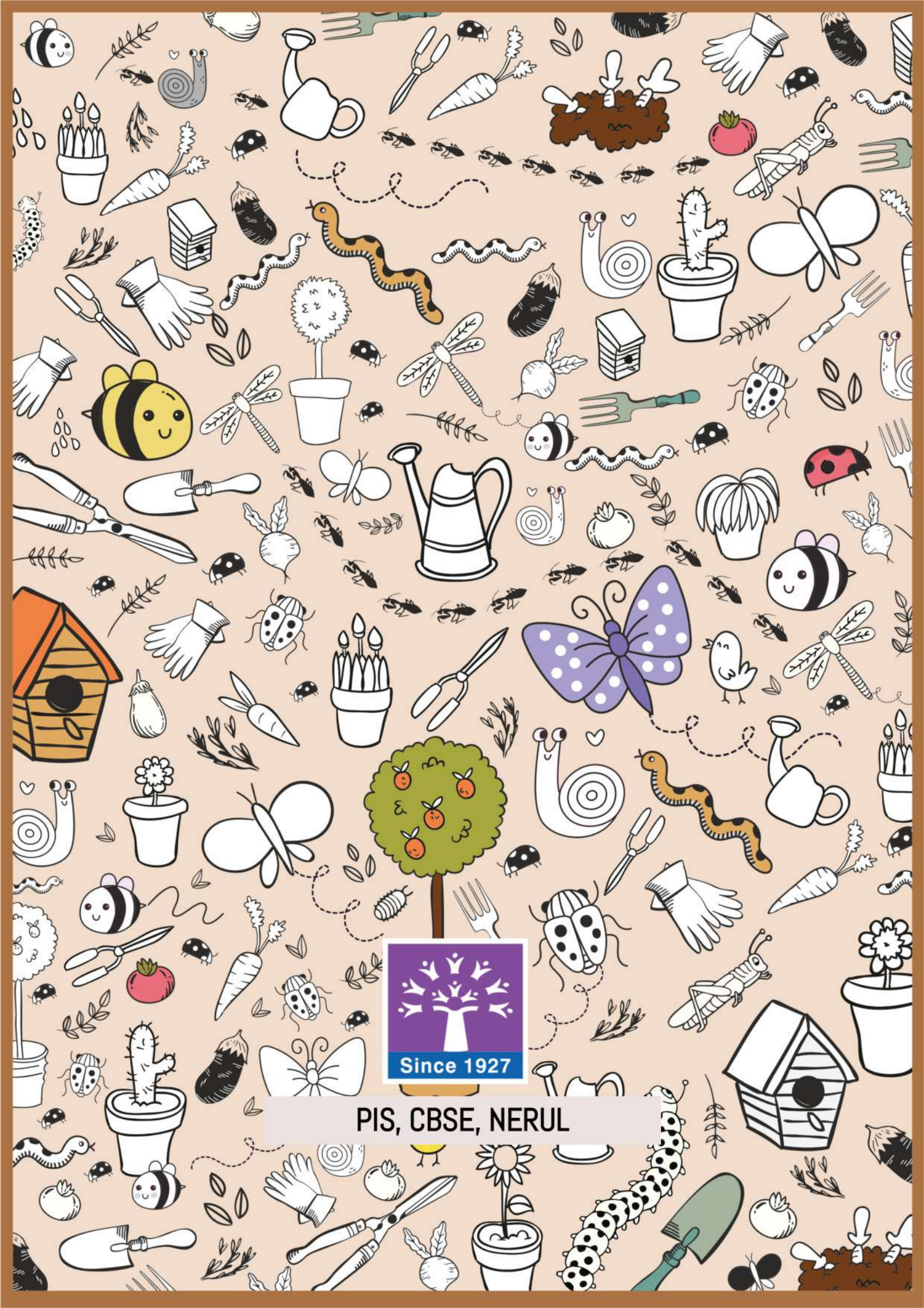
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