



EUROLEARN

EARLY YEARS RESOURCE PACK



Liverpool
City Council





Ukraine Early Years Activities

This year Liverpool is hosting Eurovision on behalf of Ukraine. As a city, we would like our youngest children to become familiar with items and activities which are meaningful to the children of Ukraine. Through these activities we are aiming for children to be reminded of the importance of messages of hope, home, belonging and togetherness. The following activities and information may inspire further activities and ideas of your own as you discover and learn together with the children in your setting.

"Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadows. It's what the sunflowers do." *-Helen Keller*

Nightingales

The nightingale is the national bird of Ukraine representing joy and hope of the coming spring. The nightingale has long been involved in Ukrainian culture as “a creator of sweet sounds, a builder of homes, and a harbinger of spring”. In Ukrainian the word for nightingale, *соловейко – soloveiko*, is a term of personal endearment. The nightingale is a small, plain looking bird with a big voice. Slightly larger than a robin, the nightingale is well-known for its lilting, beautiful song but can be surprisingly hard to spot. It is usually the male nightingale that sings. You might expect a nightingale - a bird of thickets and woodland - to nest in trees, but it builds its nest on or just above ground level. Nightingales are estimated to have declined by 90 per cent in the last 50 years, thought to be due to a mix of factors, including climate change but also increased numbers of deer nibbling away all the dense woodland understorey, which the nightingales need to feed and nest in. The nightingale’s song is most often heard during spring and early summer. This period is the mating and nesting season. The female builds a cup-shaped nest out of dry leaves, twigs, and grass. She lays four to six eggs, which hatch in about two weeks. Nightingales have an astonishingly rich repertoire, able to produce over 1000 different sounds, compared with just 340 by skylarks and about 100 by blackbirds. This is because the part of the brain responsible for creating sound is bigger in nightingales than in most other birds

Sunflowers

The sunflower is the national flower of Ukraine and a symbol of peace and resilience. Considered a very positive flower. When growing, their bloom follows the sun, they move from east to west during the day then settle into a position for night. This stops when they are fully-grown




sunflowers. There are almost 70 different types of sunflower. Each flowerhead is made up of 2000 florets (tiny flowers) and these produce lovely sweet nectar, which is a great treat for bees.


** Do not allow young children to eat sunflower seeds as they are a choking hazard.*

Egg Painting

Symbol of hope in hard times. Pysanky eggs is an art form still being done today by many artists. Usually done around the time of easter. Eggs were considered to hold great powers. Pre-Christian Ukrainians believed that the eggs could cure infertility, protect homes from fire, control weather, prevent famine, and ensure good health.

Activity	What to do	Curriculum links
Find the nightingale 	Look at pictures of a nightingale together and talk about their attributes (what they are known for)-builder of homes, creator of sweet sounds and harbinger of spring (telling us spring is coming!). Mix pictures of other birds in and turn them over. Children take turns to turn the birds over and find the nightingale. Can also play nightingale snap with the cards.	Communication and language Understanding the world Literacy
Build a home like a nightingale	In construction indoors, or outside with natural materials encourage children to build a home for themselves, or for a nightingale to live in. Female nightingales make their cup-shape nests with twigs, leaves and grass, can the children do the same?	Expressive arts and design Communication and language
Sing and make music like a nightingale	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NK2_bcQcoD4 Encourage the children to lie down, close their eyes and listen carefully to the sounds of the nightingale on the link. Ask them how they felt listening to it? Did it make them feel calm, happy, peaceful? Listen again to the music and ask if the children can make the same sounds with their mouths. This activity will help children to tune into the sounds they hear. Have you got any instruments which could make these noises? Make up tunes and melodies together like a nightingale.	Communication and language Expressive arts and design Personal, social and emotional Development



<p>Grow a sunflower</p> 	<p>Plant sunflower seeds and observe them as they grow. Measure them with tapes and measuring sticks and compare the heights with the children. Record the measurements so you can compare. Use language such as “Is anyone taller than the sunflower? Who is shorter?”. Ask the children how tall do they think it will grow? “Which one will grow the tallest?” Talk about the colours and how these attract bees and insects. As they grow observe how their heads face the sun throughout the day as it moves across the sky. Look at the flower and ask how does it make you feel? Warm, cheerful, happy?</p>	<p>Communication and language Physical Development Mathematics Understanding the World Personal Social Emotional Development</p>
<p>Look at sunflowers and their seeds together</p>	<p>Together look at sunflowers and the seeds through magnifying glasses. This activity is only suitable as an adult-led activity in order to be closely supervised in case children attempt to eat the seed.</p>	<p>Communication and Language Understanding the World</p>
<p>Paint sunflowers</p>	<p>Look at a picture of Van Goghs ‘Sunflowers’. Arrange some sunflowers in a vase on a table and provide the colours required to paint them. Allow the children time to look at the sunflowers and paint as desired. Remember it is the process rather than the product of this activity that is important, the making of choices of which colour they would like to use, or the thickness of the brush they would like. It is the talking and observational skills which we are encouraging.</p>	<p>Communication and Language Expressive Arts and Design Physical Development</p>
<p>Make sunflowers</p>	<p>With yellow playdough and natural materials such as twigs, children can make their own sunflowers. As they make them talk about the different parts of a sunflower, the stem, the leaves, the flowerhead.</p>	<p>Communication and Language Physical Development Understanding the World</p>
<p>Egg Decorating Make a papier mache egg</p>	<p>Create large papier mache eggs in a group. Decorate in blue and yellow in support of Ukraine. Add messages of hope to celebrate and focus on. Parents can be involved (see Messengers of hope activity below). Culture Liverpool have commissioned a visual arts resource with lots of ideas and ‘how to’ videos on how to make and decorate pysanka eggs https://www.cultureliverpool.co.uk/visual-arts-resource-pack</p>	<p>Understanding the World Personal, Social and Emotional Development Physical Development</p>



Bird watching	Try to find birds in the sky or trees in and around your outdoor area. Encourage the children to describe what they are seeing and count how many of each bird they have found as a tally chart or however the children would like to represent this.	Understanding the world Communication and language Mathematics
Tracing sunflower shadows	Try tracing shadows onto the ground using chalks at different times of the day. Children will be fascinated by the ways their shadow moves and changes shape during the day.	Understanding the world Personal, social and emotional development Physical development
Messengers of hope	<p>Chat with the children about things which make you smile or feel happy inside. Generate a list of these things. Can these be displayed? An adult could write these on eggs and leave them around to remind children. Ask the children to draw and mark-make on the eggs things which they like.</p> <p>Talk with children about things we do which make other people feel happy. Add to the list throughout the term and display. Parents get involved by sharing things that have happened at home which have brought happiness. Display and celebrate these.</p> <p>These activities could be repeated for things such as “What has brought me peace/ helped me to feel calm”, “Things I have got better at and achieved (linked to resilience)”.</p>	Personal, social and emotional development Communication and language

EUROVISION
SONG CONTEST
UNITED KINGDOM
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cultureliverpool.co.uk/eurolearn