

Plant Names and Labels

Consider the names of plants, even invent your own and make recycled labels for them

All

Writing



Extend the **Literacy** opportunities by learning about common plant names e.g. Dandelion comes from the French 'Dents de lion' (Lion's teeth) or the Forget-me-not is so named because it keeps coming back! Can you write labels for plants in your grounds inventing descriptive, creative names?

JK Rowling had fun with plant folklore and latin names in the Harry Potter series. e.g. the infamous Mandrake with the power to undo curses and its baby-shaped root with a fatal scream. What folklore can you conjure up? Consider asking people in the community for the names that they have used for local plants as a nice **social studies** link. Brush up on your 'Herbology' and look up latin names of local plants to see if you can understand elements of the language. Use the latin as the inspiration for casting spells or invent your own latin names.

When growing plants from seed it can be difficult to remember what you've planted and where - especially when all the action is happening underground! Recycled plant labels are a fun and easy solution. They're also useful for naming existing plants.

Equipment

- Felt tip pens
- Cardboard and sticky tape
- Plastic bottle strips or similar
- Scissors

Activity

- 1) Cut cardboard into your desired shape for a plant label. This could be a fun shape like a butterfly or flower or a simple rectangle - just remember it needs to be big enough to write on.
- 2) Write on your plant name in felt-tip. You could give the plant a mythical name, a new nickname, find out its latin name (or make up a new one!)
- 3) Make the cardboard label waterproof by covering it with sticky tape or a layer of PVA glue.
- 4) Carefully, cut your recycled plastic into strips to make pointy stakes to go in the soil.
- 5) Attach your label to the stake and place in a visible place that everyone can see.



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