

**Connecting with Nature**

# How to make a zine

**‘Zine-making is an art in its own right,  
and an old art that has become a platform  
for makers from all walks of life.’**

**Illustrator Ed Cheverton**

Royal Botanic Gardens  
**Kew**



# Zine-making

**Learn how to use zine-making and DIY self-publishing to share ideas and make your voice heard!**

In this learning resource you will:

- Discover the fascinating history of zine-making.
- Explore ways to tell your own story through zines.
- Learn how to make your own original zine.

Use this learning resource alongside our other resources **'Why are plants important to you?'** and **'Plants in everyday life'** to create your own plants- and fungi-themed zine.



## What is a zine?

**Zines tend to be a combination or 'bricolage' of various images, texts and messages. Here is a list of just a few of the things you can do with the zine format:**

- publish sketches, drawings, and mini-comics
- gather your favourite recipes
- share something informative
- print your own poetry
- share your thoughts and ideas about something you're passionate about
- ...the list goes on

Basically, what you can include in a zine is only limited by your imagination!



## What is a zine?

**Before the internet there was the fanzine, created originally by sci-fi enthusiasts of the early 20th century who used the medium as a way to discuss their thoughts and ideas with others.**

That same do-it-yourself ethos is what drew punks of the late 20th century to embrace fanzines as a complement to their music, and as a means to challenge mainstream society.

**Zines can be powerful! They can communicate strong ideas.**

Despite the development of the internet, printed zines are still an invaluable form of socially conscious cultural currency. They remain a powerful way for people to share ideas and knowledge and publish creative work on things they care about.

The usefulness of zines as historical documents is now being recognised. Many universities have their own zine collections and there are also numerous independent zine libraries around the world.

It's easier than ever to learn about zines first hand...



# Will your zine be informative?

This zine takes the reader on a journey following the cocoa plant from seed to our supermarkets.

What knowledge would you like to share?



# Will it tell a story?

Could you create a narrative about something that interests you?  
This group created a fictional story about a *Pterygota* seed.







# Inspiration

## Some interesting zines to inspire your zine-making!

Notice how varied all of the work is. There are maps, drawings, poems, essays, interviews – even online zines that include videos and sound recordings.

- [lovecamden.org/about-project-vox](http://lovecamden.org/about-project-vox)
- [rookiemag.com/2017/05/loving-lahore](http://rookiemag.com/2017/05/loving-lahore)
- [rookiemag.com/2016/10/i-am-power](http://rookiemag.com/2016/10/i-am-power)
- [rookiemag.com/2014/08/paper-trail](http://rookiemag.com/2014/08/paper-trail)
- [horridcovid.hotglue.me](http://horridcovid.hotglue.me)



# Now, to make your zine...

Use the work you made in response to 'Plants in everyday life' and 'Why are plants important to you?' as a starting point for your zine.

From there, let your imagination run wild and see what exciting, novel and curious ideas you come up with.

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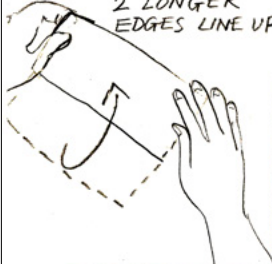


THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO MAKE A ZINE...  
 THIS IS ONE OF THE QUICKEST + EASIEST WAYS TO  
 MAKE YOURS. YOU WILL NEED

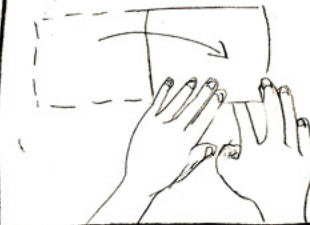
A3 SHEET  
 OF PAPER



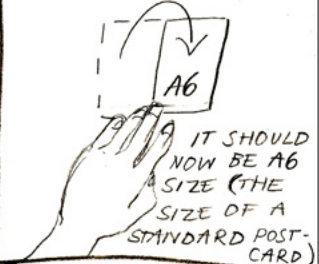
① FOLD THE PAPER IN  
 HALF SO THAT THE  
 2 LONGER  
 EDGES LINE UP



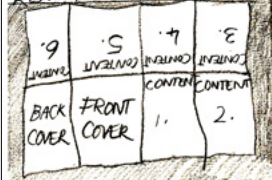
② FOLD IT AGAIN THE  
 OTHER WAY, SO THE 2  
 SHORTER EDGES LINE UP.



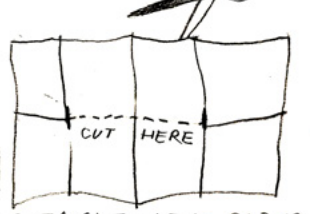
③ FOLD IT ONE LAST TIME,  
 IN THE SAME DIRECTION.



④ UNFOLD THE PAPER.  
 IN THE IMAGE BELOW  
 YOU CAN SEE THE DIFFE-  
 RENT PAGES OF YOUR ZINE

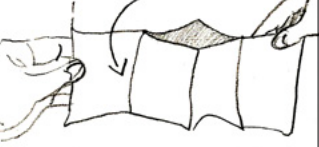


⑤

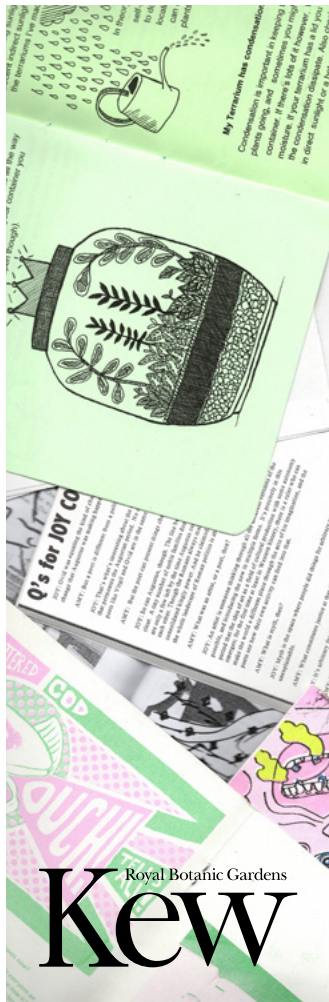


CUT A SLIT IN THE PAPER  
 (AS SHOWN ABOVE)

⑥



FOLD THE PAPER ALONG  
 THAT SAME LINE, BRINGING  
 THE LONGER SIDES  
 TOGETHER.



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⑦ HOLD THE 2 SIDES OF THE PAPER AND PUSH THEM TOGETHER TO FORM A CROSS

⑧ FOLD THE SECTIONS TOGETHER TO CREATE A BOOKLET

⑨

⑩ YOUR ZINE

FLATTEN THE ZINE BY CREASING THE EDGES

⑪ START WORKING ON YOUR CONTENT!

⑫ ALL OF THE PAGES ARE DOUBLE MAKING THE INSIDE LAYER BLANK - YOU COULD ADD SECRET NOTES!

YOU ARE NOW AN INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER!

# Happy zine-making!

This resource was developed by Kate Ducker for Kew's Youth Programme as part of the Kew Youth Forum 'Connecting with Nature' zine project 2020.

