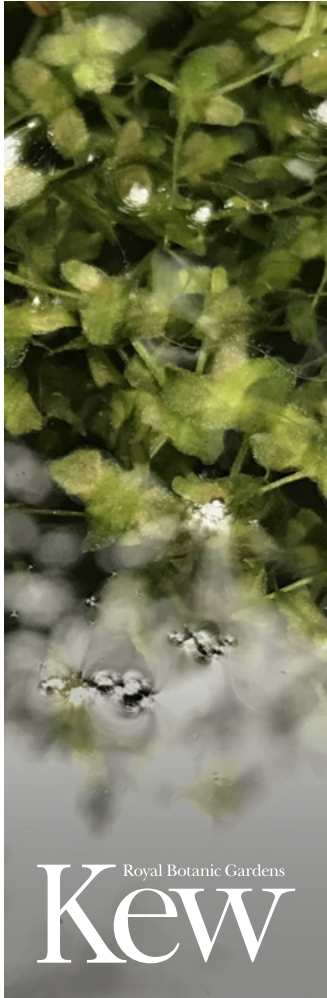




Connecting with Nature

Why are plants important to you?

Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew



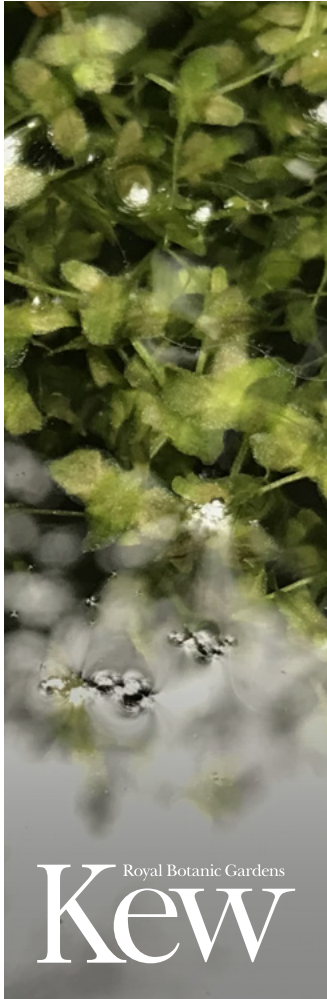
Why are plants important to you?

Plants and fungi affect all areas of our lives. We need them for food, clothes and medicine, and natural spaces help our wellbeing. Without plants and fungi, there wouldn't be anything else!

In this learning resource you will:

- Share your thoughts and memories to respond to the question: Why are plants and fungi important to you?
- Experiment with creative techniques to bring your thoughts to life. (Try photography, drawing, film, poetry, creative writing or anything that interests you.)

Use this learning resource alongside our other resources **'Plants in everyday life'** and **'How to make a zine'** to create your own plants- and fungi-themed zine.



We would like you to consider ways in which plants and fungi affect your life, and respond creatively. How you do this is up to you!

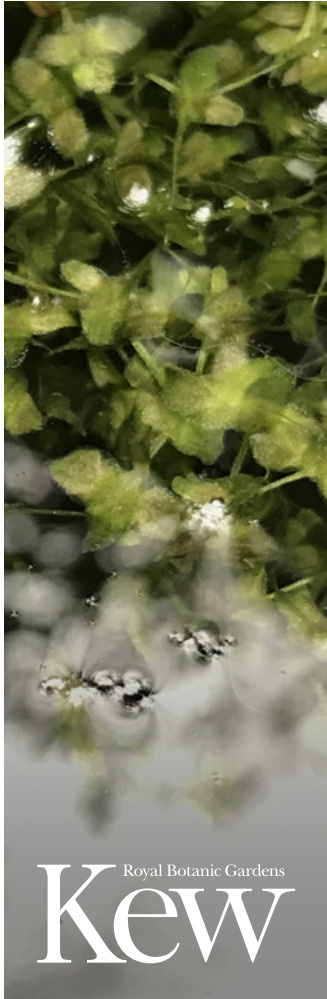
You could choose to respond to this question from a personal perspective, for example:

'Before an exam, I use lavender oil to help calm me down.'

'Without plants I wouldn't be able to have my cup of tea every morning.'

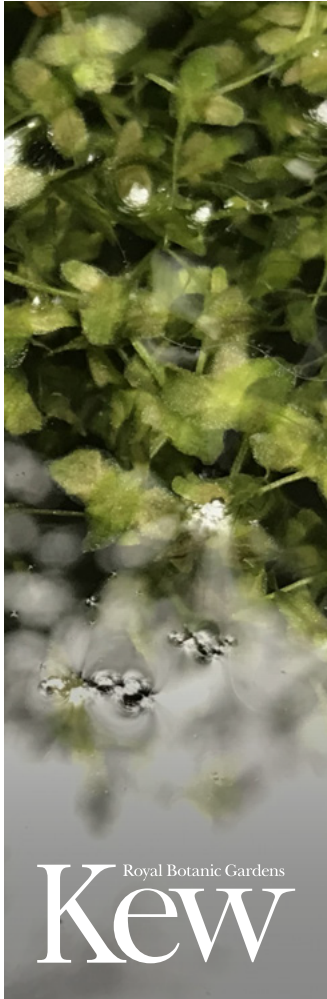
Or you could respond from a more general perspective:

'Plants release oxygen from their leaves, which people need to breathe.'



How should I respond?

**There are many ways you could respond.
Here are a few ideas to get you started...**

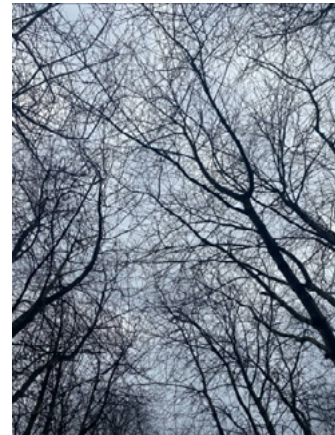


Photography

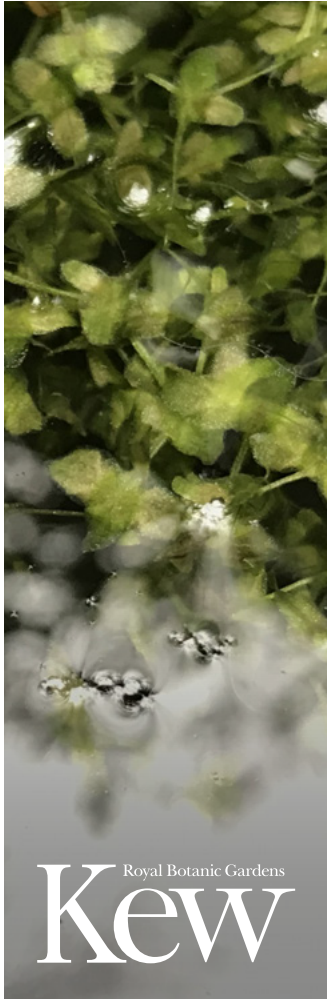
This could be on your phone, laptop, a disposable camera – anything that is accessible to you.

For some inspiration, why not look at the work of Charles Jones, who photographed the plant life around him:

michaelhoppengallery.com/artists/50-charles-jones/overview/#/artworks/11737



These photos were taken by members of the Kew Youth Forum 2021.



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Drawing

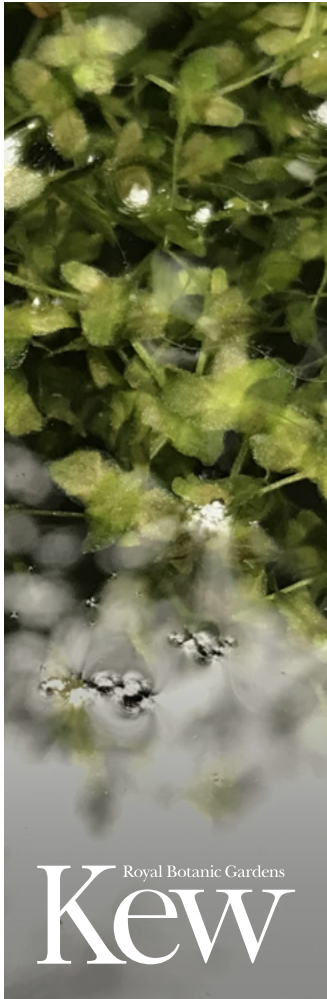
Try drawing while walking. Many artists draw in their sketchbook while walking to take in the world around them. The lines you draw may be uneven and unpredictable, but will become an expressive way of documenting your walk.

Here are some artists who draw while walking:

Liza Dimbleby – lizadimbleby.com/whitechapel-market-1.html

John Virtue – tate.org.uk/art/artists/john-virtue-4829

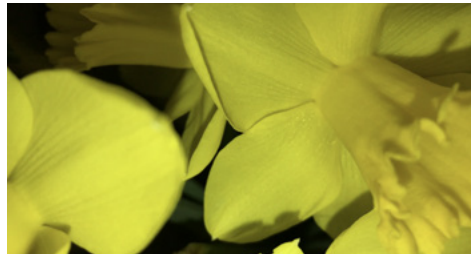


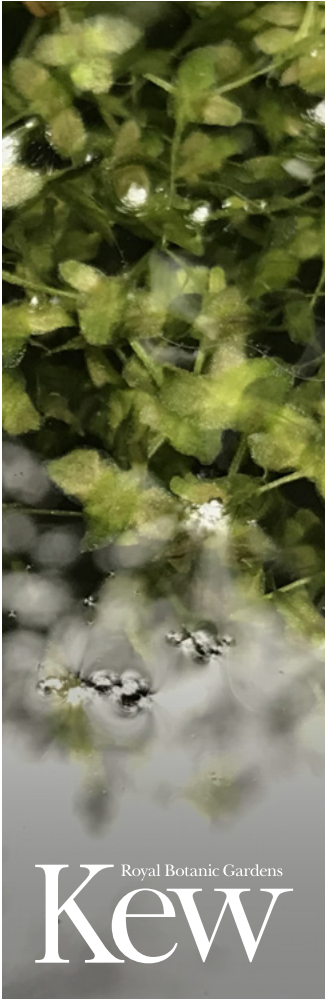


Create a video on your phone

These are stills from videos created on a smartphone by artist Jamie Jenkinson. Jamie captures quiet moments that we might often overlook. His close-up videos of plants reveal a heightened awareness of their details.

See his videos here: jamiejohnjamesjenkinson.com/p/video.html

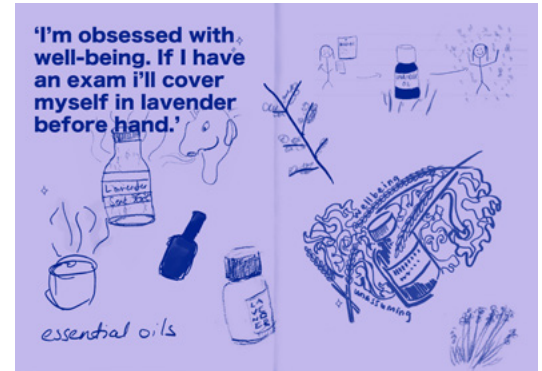
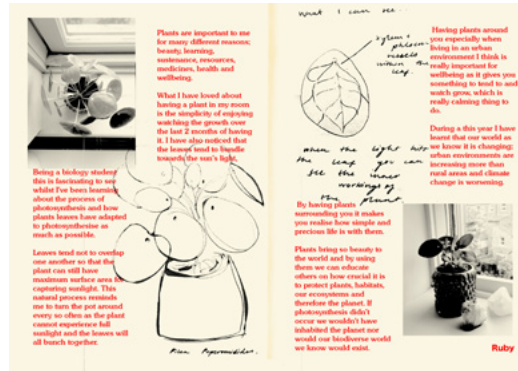
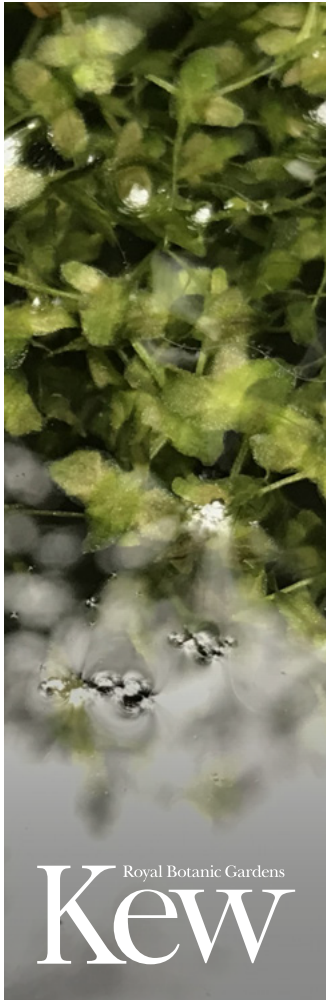




Write down your thoughts on why plants are important to you...

Put your notes in the box below:

Create diagrams



Pages from Kew Youth Forum's collaborative zine 'Connecting with Nature.'