



## Grow your own

Fancy getting out into the great outdoors, rather than sitting in just surfing the net or playing endless computer games? This might be your big chance!



**wildlife  
watch**  
www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

Why not look into it today?



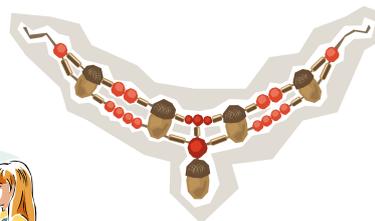
Oak trees are the No. 1 favourite with insects! An oak tree can live for 800 years, and can provide a home or food or prey to around 400 different species.

Amazing: An oak tree can provide all of the oxygen for two people for their entire lives!!! If it lives for 800 years, that means it sees 32 generations of people. For how many people does an oak tree provide oxygen? (Why not plant one as soon as you can?)

A big oak tree can produce 50,000 acorns in a single year! Imagine if all of these acorns grew into trees! Why do you think many acorns don't grow into trees?

How to grow an oak tree:

1. Collect acorns in the autumn, when they fall. Sort them out – healthy acorns will sink to the bottom of a bowl of water.
2. But a layer of stones or gravel in the bottom of a pot which has drainage holes in the base. You could use a big yoghurt carton or ice cream tub, if you make holes in the bottom first.
3. Fill the pot with *peat free* compost or soil.
4. Plant an acorn, out of its cup, pointed side up, by pushing it into the soil as far as you can with your finger. Cover it with soil. **KEEP THE SQUIRRELS AWAY FROM IT!**
5. Put the pot outside and wait until spring when the first leaves should appear.
6. Water it regularly during the summer.
7. Plant out your seedling in the second spring. You might want to put a rabbit collar around it for the first couple of years. Rabbits like to eat the bark of young trees, but once an oak has become a couple of years old, the bark is too bitter, and the rabbits will leave it alone.
8. Acorns that are not fertile make lovely jewellery. There's a craft task for you!



**Wildlife Watch** is the junior branch of The Wildlife Trusts and the UK's leading environmental action club for kids. If you care about nature and the environment and want to explore your local wildlife – this is the club for YOU!

There are **150,000** Wildlife Watch members around the UK. Taking part in Wildlife Watch is an exciting way to explore your surroundings and get closer to the wildlife you share it with.

© Durham County Badger Group 2012 Adapted from information by The Wildlife Trusts. Wildlife Watch is the junior branch of the Wildlife Trusts.