



APRIL WEATHER CHART

Dates in
April



Put a number one in the column that shows what the weather was like for each date in April.

Then add up the columns and answer the questions below:

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How many sunny days were there in April?

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How many cloudy days were there in April?

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How many rainy days were there in April?

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How many very cold days were there in April?

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Add up the
columns

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Make A Upcycled Jar Terrarium

Materials List

Clean jars with lids (To make your project truly upcycled, choose jars from the recycling bin.)

Glue, suitable for metal and plastic

Newspaper and paper towels

Terrarium soil mix (Better than potting soil because it retains moisture and resists mold.)

Small pebbles or river rocks

Small plants (For best results, pick ones that like humid conditions.)

Decorative items, such as: moss, plastic animals, silk flowers, small rocks, or decorative pebbles (These can be found in the floral department at most dollar stores.)

Instructions

1. Spread newspaper on your work surface.
2. Choose a decorative top (silk flower, plastic animal, or rock) for the jar lid and glue it to the top.
3. Place a 1 inch layer of pebbles or river rocks on the bottom of the jar for drainage.
5. Add a 2-3 inch layer of soil and create a hole where you want to put the plant.
6. Remove the small plant from its pot, tease the roots apart gently, and plant it in the hole. Press the soil around the roots firmly.
7. Decorate the top of the soil using moss, animal figurines, or pretty stones.
8. After cleaning any dirt from the inside of the jar with a moist paper towel, place the decorated lid on top.

Voila! Instant spring!

Closed jar terrariums barely need any care besides being kept in bright indirect light. Open the lid of the jar if there's excessive condensation inside, to allow for evaporation. Mist the soil with water if it feels dry to the touch. Prune, as needed, to keep the plant healthy.



Make A Upcycled Doggie Bag Dispenser

Materials List

Recycled wipes container, washed and with the label removed

Pretty fabric or craft paper

Mod Podge®, Foam paintbrush, Scissors

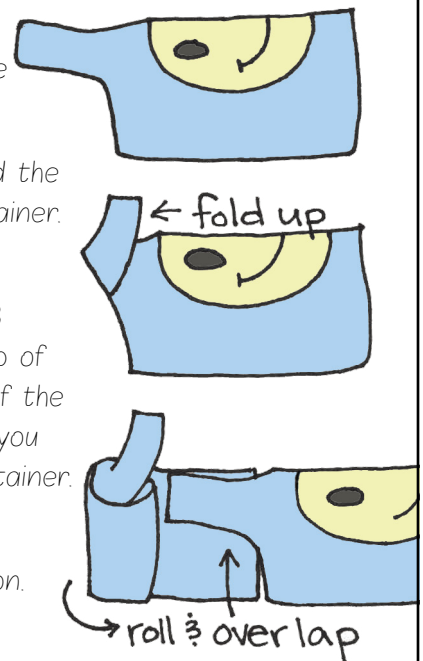
Instructions

1. Remove the lid and measure the height and circumference of the wipes container. Add one or two centimeters to the circumference measurement to allow for an overlap.
2. Measure and cut a piece of fabric or scrapbook paper to fit the container based on the measurement you made.
3. Use a foam brush to apply Mod Podge® to the outside of the container's base. Don't Mod Podge® the threads around the top edge of the base, or the bottom of the container.
4. Carefully wrap the cut piece of material onto the surface of the container, working out any wrinkles or air pockets as you press it down. Add Mod Podge® to the overlapping piece of material to finish it. Wait for the covered container to fully dry.
5. When the container is dry, it's ready to be filled with plastic bags. Instructions on folding grocery bags so they are easy to remove from the dispenser are below.



How to Roll Plastic Bags for Your Doggie Bag Dispenser

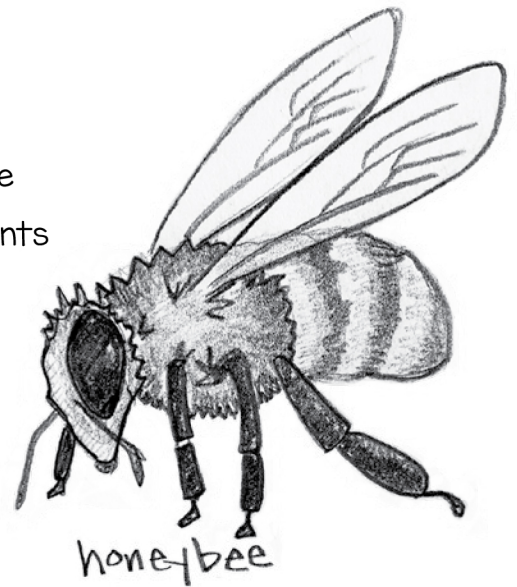
1. Flatten 10 plastic grocery bags. Fold each one in half length-wise pressing out all of the air.
2. Place one bag on a work surface with the handle facing left. Fold the handle upward. This will be the first bag you pull out of the container. All the other bags will be connected to this first bag.
3. Firmly roll the bag from the handle side until you have only the 3 bottom inches left. Place the next folded bag, handle first, on top of the first bag. Finish rolling the first bag, overlapping the handle of the second bag. Continue like this, rolling and overlapping bags, until you have a roll just large enough to fit into the top of the wipes container. The handle of the first bag will be in the center of the roll.
4. Pull the center handle through the dispenser lid as you snap it on. You and your dog are now ready to go for a long, spring walk!



A Riddle

I am an animal who never stops working. My work helps produce the seeds and fruit that feed many creatures, yet I eat no plants or animals myself. I use what I collect from flowers to make a useful wax and a tasty food that never spoils. Who am I?

Did you guess a honeybee? Of the 20,000 different kinds of bees in the world, 7 kinds are honeybees.



Honeybees are valuable pollinators. They use the sweet nectar and powdery pollen in flowers to make bee's wax and honey for their colony. Bees need about 2 million healthy flowers to make one pound of honey. When one honeybee finds a patch of nectar-filled flowers, she tells the other honeybees by performing a dance that communicates the location of the flower patch. We call this the waggle dance. In winter, honeybees cluster together to stay warm and feed on the honey they have stored in their hive.

Sometimes people put chemicals called pesticides on plants to kill plant-harming insects. Unfortunately, these chemicals can be dangerous for bees and other pollinating animals. We can help honeybees by planting healthy pesticide-free flowers for them to use.

Bees are attracted to some flowers more than others. Honeybees tend to like small flowers that grow in bunches. Many herb plants produce the small abundant nectar-filled flowers that honeybees like. An added benefit of flowering herbs is that they are a healthy and flavorful addition to salads, soups, baked potatoes, pizza, and spaghetti sauce.

Herbs are, for the most part, easy to grow. They prefer full sun and are adaptable to a wide range of soil, as long as it's well drained. Flowering herbs will attract other pollinators too, like butterflies, hoverflies, and sometimes hummingbirds.

Bee-Friendly Herb Growing Table



HERB	GERMINATION	PREFERRED GROWING CONDITIONS
BASIL (annual)	Plant seeds 1/4" deep, cover loosely with soil, and keep warm. Germination in 5-10 days.	Basil does best in full sun.
CHIVES (perennial)	Plant seeds on top of the soil and sprinkle with a thin layer of soil. Germination in 2 weeks..	Chives can grow in full sun or partial shade.
CILANTRO (annual)	Plant seeds 1/4" deep and cover loosely with soil. Germination in 1-2 weeks.	Cilantro likes well-drained soil and full sun. It does not do well in pots due to its long roots.
DILL WEED (biennial)	Plant seeds 1/4" deep and cover loosely with soil. Germination in 1-2 weeks.	Dill weed grows best in full sun and rich soil. It can grow fairly tall.
LAVENDER (perennial)	Press prepared seeds into the surface of the soil. Germination in 2-3 weeks.	Prepare lavender seeds by wrapping in a damp paper towel, placing in a baggie, and refrigerating for 3 weeks. Lavender grows best in sun.
OREGANO (perennial)	Press seeds into the surface of the soil. Do not cover. Germination in about 1-2 weeks.	Plant in full sun in well-drained soil. Oregano is tolerant of poor soil.
PARSLEY (biennial)	Plant prepared seeds 1/2" deep in soil in a warm spot with indirect light. Germination in 3-4 weeks.	Prepare seeds by refrigerating 3 days, then soaking them overnight in room temp water. After germination, move seedlings to full sun.
ROSEMARY (perennial)	Plant seeds on top of the soil. Do not cover. Keep warm and do not overwater. Germination in 2-3 weeks.	Rosemary grows best in full sun. It is an evergreen.
SAGE (perennial)	Plant on top of the soil and place in a light warm area. Germination in 2-3 weeks.	Sage grows best in nitrogen-rich, well-drained soil. It is drought resistant.
THYME (perennial)	Plant seeds on top of soil. Germination in about 1-2 weeks.	Thyme grows best in full sun. It can also be grown easily from cuttings.

Never use pesticides in or around The Honeybee Garden.

HERBS FOR HONEYBEES GROWING ACTIVITY

Materials:

scissors

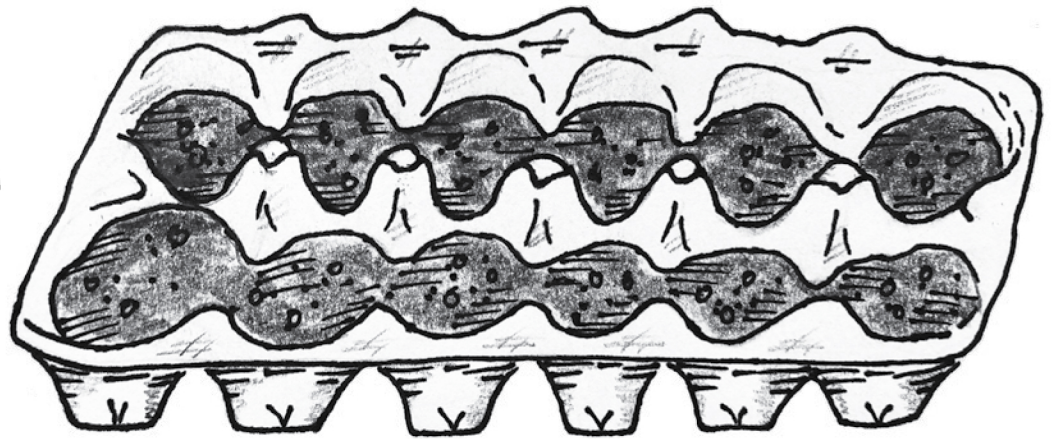
pressed paper egg carton

potting soil

spray bottle

plastic wrap

seed packet



Activity: Planting Herb Seeds in an Egg Carton

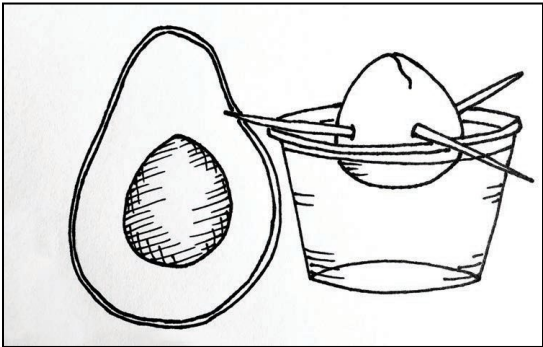
1. Cut the lid off of an egg carton and add potting soil to each cup.
2. Place 2-3 seeds in each soil-filled egg cup, following the directions on the seed packet and the Herb Growing Table.
3. Spray the soil with water until it's thoroughly damp. Cover the egg carton with a sheet of plastic wrap to keep the soil moist.
4. Place the carton on a tray in a warm place. The seeds should stay moist. Check them every day and spray the soil if it becomes dry to the touch. Be careful not to overwater, especially before germination.
5. After the seeds germinate and begin to grow into seedlings, remove the plastic wrap. Cut, or pull apart, each egg cup and plant the entire cup in a sunny garden spot. Don't worry about the pressed-paper egg cup. It will help keep the soil around the young roots moist and will eventually biodegrade.

Trees Are Special

Trees are indeed special. We use their wood to make boards to build with, and we get heat from burning tree logs in fireplaces and stoves. Sawdust, wood shavings and mulch can be used to line animal pens, absorb wet messes and beautify garden beds. We use the pulp from trees to make all types of paper for text books, magazines and birthday cards. We also get wonderful fruits from trees, such as almonds, olives, mangos and apples.

Trees also clean the air. They are pollution fighting machines; taking in carbon dioxide, intercepting airborne particles and absorbing both odors and pollutants (carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ammonia, nitrogen dioxides and ozone). Then trees release oxygen, needed by every living thing on earth. It takes approximately 500 mature trees to absorb the amount of carbon dioxide produced by a typical car in one year. Young trees absorb more carbon than old ones, so planting trees is a great way to help our environment.

The following is a fun environmental lesson that involves eating delicious fruits and recycling the pit or seed by planting your very own pollution fighting, energy conserving, fruit bearing tree. The best seeds come from fully ripe fruit purchased in season from a local farmer's market. Eat the fruit and reserve the seeds or pit. Follow the directions below for growing your tree.

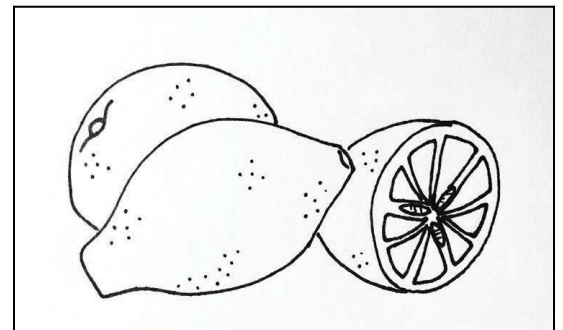


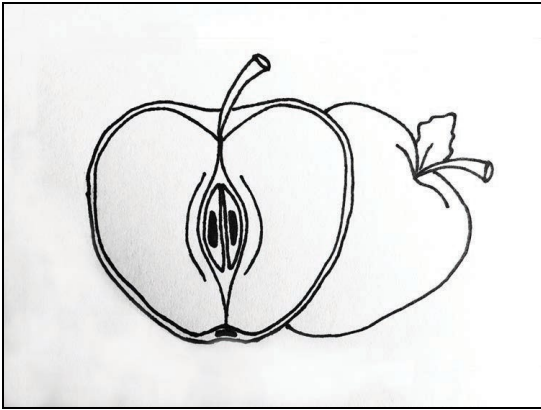
Avocado

Begin by gently removing and washing the pit. Examine the pit to determine the pointier top from the flatter bottom. Place 3-4 toothpicks around the center of the pit and place it on a container of water so that only the bottom of the pit is submerged. Set it on a windowsill. Change the water each week to prevent bacteria and mold from forming. Your tree will sprout in 4-6 weeks!

Citrus Fruits (lemon, lime, oranges)

Citrus plants are easy to grow, but need warm climates and sunshine to produce fruit. Smaller trees, such as the Meyer lemon, may be grown indoors. To plant your own tree, remove the seeds from the fruit, wash and let them dry for a week or two. Plant the dried seeds in a container of loose potting soil. Cover the pot with plastic wrap to keep the soil moist before germination and place the container in a sunny window.





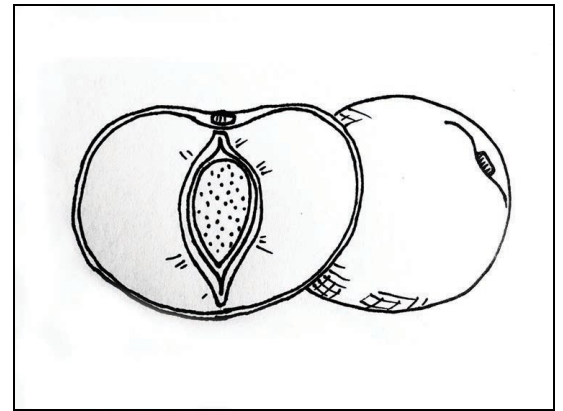
Apples

Apple trees are fun and easy to grow, but since most commercially grown apples come from grafted trees, planting one from seeds will probably not produce the fruit you want. Collect apple seeds from any variety of organically grown apples. Rinse the seeds and dry them with paper towels. Place the seeds inside moist paper towels in a sealed container and refrigerate for 60–70 days. Remove the seeds and plant them in containers filled

with loose potting soil.

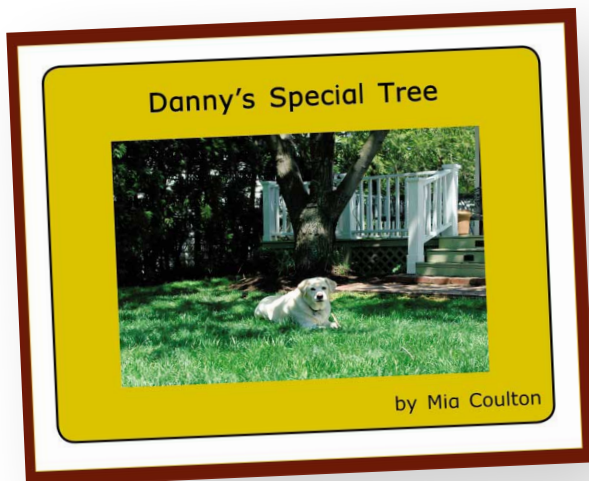
Stone Fruits (including peach, plum, apricot, nectarine and cherries)

Soak the stone for 5 minutes, then gently scrub off all remaining fruit. Place the stone onto paper towels and let it dry for 3–5 days. Use a nutcracker to carefully crack the stone so you can extract the almond-shaped seed from within. (This step not necessary for cherries.) Place the seeds in a sealed container and put in the refrigerator for 10 weeks. Remove the seeds and plant in containers filled with loose potting soil.



Extension:

Maple syrup is not a fruit, but it does come from a tree! Maple syrup is made from tree sap that is slowly boiled down into a thick sweet syrup. Maple trees are very easy to grow. Their seeds ripen and disperse in large quantities each autumn. The seed cases are sometimes called “helicopters” because of the way they spin and fly down from the trees. Read more about maple trees in **Danny's Special Tree**, level 21/M.



Danny and the Little Bunny Mixed-Up Sentence and Story Hunts

Print out the Mixed-up Story Hunt word strips on the following pages and follow the instructions to make your activity. Template for the basket is on page 4.

This HUNT is based on the MaryRuth Books title, *Danny and the Little Bunny*. Make up additional HUNTS that you can do with the plastic eggs. Let the ideas below spark your imagination:

- ❖ Hunt for RHYMING WORDS
- ❖ Hunt for ALPHABET LETTERS or SOUNDS
- ❖ Hunt for PICTURE/WORD matches
- ❖ Hunt for a STORY – write and cut up your own, or use this one about Danny and a little bunny that he finds in his yard.
- ❖ Hunt for a SENTENCE – write and cut up your own, or use this one from the book, *Danny and the Little Bunny*.



Shout out to [Frugal Fun for Boys and Girls](#) for the inspiration. We adapted an idea from this clever blog and made it our own.

Danny and the Little Bunny *Mixed-up Story Hunt*

Level D / 78 words / fiction

Cut along dotted lines. > **Place** each strip in plastic egg. > **Hide** eggs. > **Find** eggs. > **Put** story in correct order.

A little bunny was hiding in the grass.

Danny looked at the little bunny.

Danny said, "Will you play with me, little bunny?"

The little bunny did not want to play with Danny.

The little bunny ran into a hole.

"Little bunny, little bunny, please come out and play with me," said Danny.

"Little bunny, little bunny," said Danny.

"I can see you down there. I want to play with you, little bunny."

"Here I come, little bunny."

Danny and the Little Bunny *Mixed-Up Sentence Hunt*

Level D / 78 words / fiction

Cut along dotted lines. > **Place** each piece in plastic egg. > **Hide** eggs. > **Find** eggs. > **Put** sentence in correct order.

"Little bunny,

little bunny,

please come out

and play with

me," said Danny.

Spring Basket Template

You will need: template, two 8.5 x 11" sheets of paper, scissors, stapler or tape

Cut out template along solid black lines. **Trace** pattern onto one sheet of 8.5 x 11" paper. **Cut** out traced shape. **Fold** along dotted lines. To make one side of the basket, **fold** up corners, tuck behind round flap, and **staple** or **tape** together. Do the same on the other side. **Cut** 11" strip from second sheet of paper. **Staple** or **tape** strip to each side to make a handle for the basket.

- Instead of using sheets of printer paper, consider using old newspapers or magazines, colorful construction paper, wrapping paper, or something else you would find around the house.
- This Spring Basket would be perfect to use with the **Danny and the Little Bunny Mixed-Up Story or Sentence Hunt!**