

Activity sheet - Europe

Go Wild garden photography



Fancy yourself as a bit of a wildlife photographer? There's loads of amazing animals and plants you can take pictures of, right in your back garden! Greg Armfield, a film and photography expert at WWF-UK shows you how.

Greg has over 12 years experience in photography. He really knows his stuff - he has a real 'eye' for a great picture, as it's his job to choose amazing images and to create videos that show the work that WWF does. His job has taken him all over the world, up the Himalayas, and into the Amazon jungle to direct photo shoots.



Greg Armfield

Tip 1 It's all in the timing

The best light for garden photos is in the early morning and late afternoon, on sunny days. The light is too bright in the middle of a sunny day and will make colours faded. If you want to take photos in the middle of the day, it's best if it's cloudy.



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Tip 2 Plan your perfect shot

If you're taking a picture of a plant or an animal close-up, check that there are no distracting things like plant labels, or broken petals, creeping into the picture, particularly in the background. It might mean you have to give a flower bed a spring clean to get the picture you want.



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Tip 3 Clever composition

The world is full of things that make perfect natural picture frames, like trees, archways and holes. By placing these round the outside of your image, your eye is naturally drawn to your subject. If you frame your picture in an unusual way, it can make your image really interesting and unusual! Try it out.



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Tip 4 Try some different angles

Get down low by lying on the ground on your tummy, or climb a tree to get up high (always be careful though). It will give you a really different kind of photo.



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Tip 5 Experiment

Digital cameras mean that you can take lots and lots of photos and only print the ones you want. This means you can experiment without worrying about it. You never know if an idea will work unless you try it.



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Tip 7 Be patient

If you want to take pictures of animals, you will have to be patient. You might have to wait a long time before garden birds, squirrels and other animals appear, and when they do, you have to be careful not to scare them away with any sudden movements! I sometimes have to wait for days for an animal to show up, and even then I might not get the right shot.

Tip 6

Follow your emotions

Do you find that rose very beautiful? Do you think that squirrel is really cute? Then take a picture of it. The more beautiful or interesting you find something, the better the picture you will take.



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ENTER YOUR SNAPS INTO OUR GO WILD PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



Why not enter your snaps into our Go Wild photography competition? Simply send your photo to us at: Go Wild, Panda House, Weyside Park, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XR*. Professional wildlife photographer, Roger Hooper, is judging the competition and we have some great prizes to give away. The competition closes on the 31st July 2012.

You could WIN

FIRST PRIZE
A British Wildlife photography Awards book and a Roger Hooper print of a baby elephant.

3 RUNNERS UP
A Roger Hooper print of a baby elephant.



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