

# Nature Detective

Created by Michelle Bradley for Family Learning April '20

## Your Challenge for this week is to find some dandelions



- Did you know that all parts of a dandelion are edible?
- Dandelions have been around for millions of years and have been used as a food, a herb, a dye for cloth and as medicine.
- The flower petals are used to make dandelion wine and the ground roast roots can be used (and were during the war) as a caffeine-free- coffee.
- In Victorian times the posh people ate them in their sandwiches and salads. The leaves can be eaten raw and are best eaten as young leaves, but they do taste a bit bitter like spinach. They can also be boiled to take the bitterness out.
- Bees and Butterflies love dandelions because they are the first flower out in spring for them to drink nectar from.

NB. If you decide to gather some dandelions it always a good idea to wear gloves to protect your hands as some people have an allergic reaction to the white milky liquid which is inside the stem

➤ You can bring out a sketch pad or your Nature Detective note-book and make a few sketches of the dandelions you find. Drawing the flower head, the stalk and the leaves.

- The flower heads close at night and open again in the morning so you might spot them at night sleeping if you have a torch and some dandelions in your garden.
- The leaves are thought to look like Lions teeth with their forked edges and that's how the dandelion got its common name.

- Dandelions are like the SUN with there big yellow open petals.
- Like the MOON When they transform into a seed pod=



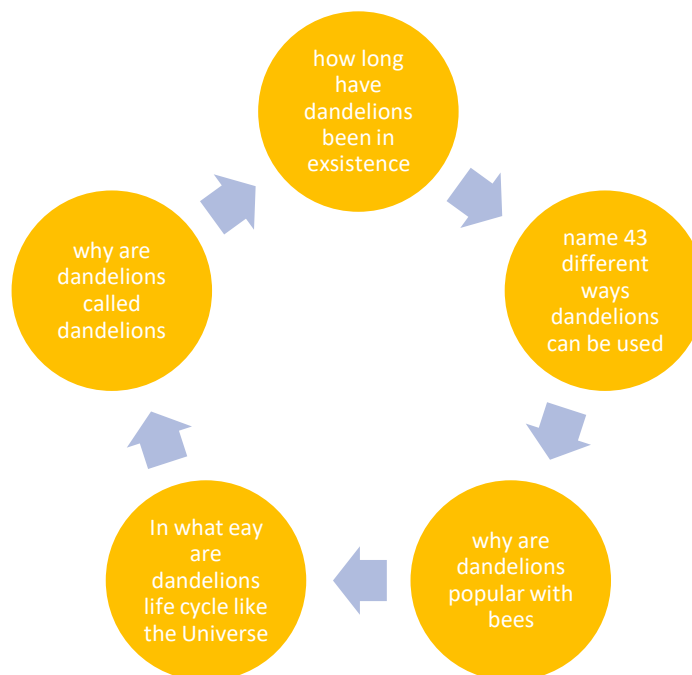
- Like the STARS when all the seed pods float off into the breeze and float up into the sky.

➤ Can you draw one of the seed pods They look like parachutes in this picture.

➤ Can you design your own parachute

after looking at this image-perhaps you could use a tissue and some thread and a stalk of an apple or a tiny twig. Have a go and see if the breeze takes your parachute up into the air.

➤ Now that you have studied the Dandelion in more detail can you answer the following questions without looking at your notes



- Colour in the image attached or draw and colour your own version.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQsfedMrjs8>
- <https://www.teachjunkie.com/filing-cabinet/dandelion-art-project>

