



Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh

Botanics Reporter

Create your own news update report about the world of the Botanic Garden

You could explore your local area or visit the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), Benmore, Logan, or Dawyck to go on an expedition and create your own Garden report to share with others.



The job of a reporter is to summarise important information in a way that is easy for everyone to understand. You can do the same thing and teach others about the Garden. One of the jobs Scientists at the Garden do is to go on expeditions in different countries to study the plants that grow there. They collect information about the places and record their visits with photos, video and sketches.

You will need:

- Paper and pencil to create your plan and for sketching

You can then act out your report just for fun or record it on a mobile device (it is up to you!)

- A mobile phone (or similar device) to capture your report
- You might want to find an adult or friend to help hold the phone (camera)

You can stop here or continue the process to make a final report.

- Access to some video editing software



1. Create a plan

What will the topic of your presentation be? Do you want to give a general report of your visit? Or updates from a favourite location? What messages do you have for the viewer? Look on the RBGE website for information about the 4 gardens.

Once you have chosen your topic, plan out what you will say and what it will look like. You might need to do a reconnaissance visit, to plan what you will report on.

Think about the following:

- What locations will you use?
- Who will be in the report? Just you, or are there other people with you who you could interview?
- Will you need any still (not moving images) like photographs or sketches that you might want to add into the presentation?
- Do you need any props like a magnifying glass, a notebook, or a hat?

Draw squares on paper to plan each 'scene' – this is called a 'storyboard'. Draw what you want it to look like and include any words underneath to remind you what you want to say.

You might want more boxes to create a story line:

Draw your picture here

Write what you will say here:



There are 3 ways to film your report:

1. Holding the phone/camera yourself (selfie style)
2. Propping the phone/camera against something whilst you film
3. Asking someone to hold the phone/camera for you



All devices will differ, but usually you need to go into the 'camera' function and there will be an option to select 'video'. Normally a large red button on the middle of the screen is what you use to start and stop recording.

You can stop here if you want and watch your videos back, or if you are looking for a further challenge you can edit your film and add extra effects.

3. Editing your video

Once you have filmed all the different parts of your report, you can put them together using video editing software. There are lots of different packages you can use to do this, and many are free. Look online for instructions to help you edit your final report.

Most editing packages will allow you to add a title, sound effects and even animations. Have fun playing with your report until you think it is finished.



Once you have finished:

- Arrange a premiere for your report with your family/friends. Set up a space for viewing and organise snacks and drinks as if you were at the opening night of a new Hollywood movie
- If you want to, and your parents/carers are happy, you can share your finished report with us on social media using #learnwithmarley

Once you have completed one report, you can continue making as many as you want using different topics. Before making each report, you will need to do your research. Check back regularly at: [Marley's School of Garden Magic](https://www.marleyschoolofgardenmagic.com/) for new ideas and information. Here are some more themes for you to think about:

- Garden/your area through the seasons
- Spot reports from particular locations
- Wildlife in the garden/your area
- A tourist guide to the garden/area
- Guide to the buildings in the garden/area
- Climate change or another environmental issue that is important to you

Good luck!