



HOW TO MAKE CUCKOO SPIT FOAM



Frog hopper
nymph



WHAT YOU NEED

- Plastic drinks bottle.
- Scissors.

- Old sock.
- Elastic band.
- Small tray/dish.

- 1 tablespoon of washing-up liquid.
- Half a cup of water.



- 1** Ask an adult to cut the bottom off a plastic drinks bottle.



- 2** Pull an old sock over the cut end of the bottle.



- 3** Secure the sock over the end of the bottle with the elastic band.



- 4** To make your bubble mixture, put your tablespoon of washing-up liquid into the small tray and add the half cup of water. Stir this together.



- 5** Dip the sock end of your 'cuckoo spit maker' into the bubble mixture. And then...



- 6** Blow into the mouth of the bottle - and you'll be just like a frog hopper nymph making your own cuckoo spit bubble foam!



Adult
frog hopper

WHAT IS CUCKOO SPIT?

Have you ever seen frothy bubbles on plant stems in the spring and summer?

This is often called 'cuckoo spit' but is not really the spit from cuckoos.

The foam is actually created by the young of frog hoppers, known as 'nymphs'. They surround themselves with bubbles for protection while they feed on plant sap.

It also prevents them from drying out while they grow.

FROGHOPPERS

Frog hoppers are small insects in the true bug family. As adults, they are teardrop-shaped and live on many plants such as thistles, nettles and grasses. If they are disturbed, adult frog hoppers can jump up to 70cm up in the air!



QUICK FACT

Cuckoo spit gets its name because it appears every year around May-June, which is when cuckoos start to call!

It's not
my
spit!

