

Marvellous Moss

Mosses were around when the dinosaurs were. They are the oldest land plant on Earth, evolving from algae. Moss is a special group of plants that does not flower. It doesn't have roots to suck up water either, so it absorbs water through all of its surfaces which is why you often find it near rivers or in wet conditions. Moss is usually a bright green but there are a few types that are pale green. If what you have found is grey, orange or yellow, it is probably a fungus or lichen (I'll tell you more about those another week).

Moss can absorb up to 20 times its weight in water. This means that early indigenous people in North America and Russia used moss filled bags as nappies for babies. A truly eco-friendly nappy!

Moss can also keep you warm by trapping heat, so moss has been used inside boots as insulation, and as a great external covering for shelters.

See if you can spot some mosses on your walks this week. Where is it growing? What does it feel like?

If you want a Moss activity to do you could make a Mini Moss Garden...this video was made by a girl who I think is in India, she knows a lot about moss. I love listening to the sound of the nature in the background where she lives too.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fF8u2LuCoE>

