

Nature Art Projects

The following 14 projects were compiled by students at Williams College through Lehman Community Engagement. These art projects use materials that can be found outside, like pinecones, sticks, or leaves, and other art supplies that are commonly found in homes. The goals of these art projects are to motivate children to be outside, as they have been spending a lot of time on a computer for school, and to encourage children to spend more time on art! We hope you enjoy these projects!

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Pinecone Owl



Materials:

- ❖ 1 pinecone
- ❖ 2 acorn caps
- ❖ 2 small, colorful leaves
- ❖ 2 googly eyes
- ❖ 1 piece of orange craft foam or paper

Instructions:

1. Go outside and find one pinecone, two acorn caps, and two small, colorful leaves.
2. Glue one googly eye inside of each acorn cap.
Option: Instead of glueing googly eyes to the acorn caps, draw eyes onto the acorn caps with a marker!
3. Glue each acorn cap onto the top of the pinecone as eyes.
4. Glue each leaf on opposite sides of the pinecone as wings.
5. Cut out a small triangle out of orange craft foam (or paper) and glue it beneath the eyes.
6. Cut out two foot shapes out of orange craft foam (or paper) and glue them on the bottom of the pinecone as feet.

Colorful Nature Weave

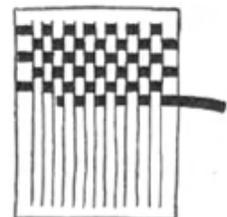
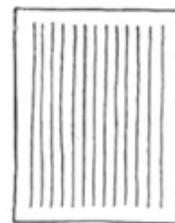


Materials:

- Piece of cardboard
- Scissors
- Yarn or string
- Tape
- Blades of grass, flowers, or leaves

Instructions:

1. Cut a piece of cardboard into a rectangle that is a little bit bigger than the size of an index card to make a loom.
2. Cut slits along each end, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart.
3. Wind your yarn or string around the cardboard loom, fitting it into the slits you just made. Place tape on the back of the loom where the string starts and where it ends.
4. Go outside and collect items to weave—anything that can fit on your cardboard loom! Items may include small flowers, blades of grass, pea pods, or leaves.
5. Starting on the left side of your loom, weave the nature item over and under the yarn until it reaches the other side of the rectangle. Repeat this for as many nature items as you like.



🌸 🌼 Dried Leaf & Flower Animals 🍁 🌸



Materials:

- Paper
- Glue
- Heavy books (or anything that can be used as a weight)
- An assortment of flowers and leaves you find outside!

Instructions:

1. Go outside and collect many different leaves and flowers!
2. Place the flowers inside a heavy book (like a dictionary), and place more heavy books or weights on top. This will dry out the leaves and flowers and help them retain their color!
3. After a week, open up the books and take out the leaves. They should be dried now! (if they are not fully dried out, you can leave them in the books for longer)
4. Think of an animal you want to create. Glue the leaves and flowers onto your paper in the shape of an animal.
 - a. For example, leaves can be great ears and wings and flowers can be great heads. Use your imagination!

Fairy House

A fairy house is a small, partly concealed house - sometimes built next to a stump, tree, or bush - that is made out of natural materials like twigs, leaves, and acorns. It is a place for fairies and other woodland creatures to live.

Materials: Any leaves, twigs, acorns, or other natural materials you find!

Instructions:

1. Find a place to build your fairy house. This could be next to a stump, tree, bush and could be behind your house, in a field, in the woods, or anywhere else!
2. Next, collect a bunch of materials to build your house. This includes leaves, twigs, acorns, bark, pinecones, and more!
3. Build your house. Let your imagination lead the way.



To read the Fairy House **books** by Tracy Kane, watch **read-alongs** by Tracy Kane, find **activities** related to fairy houses (word searches and coloring pages), see **pictures** of other fairy houses, and learn more, visit the Fairy House website [here](https://www.fairyhouses.com) or by scanning the QR code below!



The pictures on this instruction sheet come from [fairyhouses.com](https://www.fairyhouses.com)

Fairy Wands



Materials:

- ❖ Herbs from a garden
- ❖ Sticks
- ❖ Rubber bands
- ❖ Ribbon
- ❖ Burlap
- ❖ Long fabric scraps cut into 3 or 4-foot lengths
- ❖ Glue

Instructions

1. Wrap a rubber band around the top of your stick.
2. Place a stem of herbs under the rubber band and wrap the herb around the stick.
3. Wrap a ribbon around the stick covering the herbs. When you get to the bottom of the stick tie a knot. Add a dab of glue to secure the knot and prevent it from unraveling.
4. If desired add beads onto the loose ends of ribbon, knot the ribbon around a bead or add glue at the end, and trim ribbon ends as necessary.
Tip: Wrap the end of the ribbon with a piece of clear tape so that you can thread it with beads more easily.

Grass Heads



Materials

- ❖ Old tights/ stockings
- ❖ Some compost or soil
- ❖ Grass seeds
- ❖ Rubber band or thread for decorating – googly eyes...
- ❖ A pot for your grass head to sit in!

Instructions

1. Put 2-3 generous table spoons full of grass seeds at the bottom of your tights. Hold the tights open.



2. Then add a lot of earth until you have a nice sized ball. Tie the bottom of the tights. Shape into a ball if necessary.



3. Pinch a “nose”, twist it and wrap and tie in place with cotton.
4. Glue on googly eyes and mouth with PVA glue
5. Place in a yoghurt pot or similar (with no holes). Add water and the tights will “soak the water up” into the earth. If you want to speed it up, you can give the head a quick shower under the tap to moisten the earth the first time round. After that take care not to make it too wet. Place in a sunny spot!.
6. Cut your hair when it grows long!





Make Your Own Shadow Tracing Drawing



Materials:

- Paper
- A writing utensil
- Things that cast shadows
- The sun
- Something to color with (Optional)

Step 1: Go outside on a sunny day and find things that will cast interesting shadows. Examples: pinecones, sticks, leaves, rocks, pine needles, flowers, etc.

Step 2: Set your paper on a flat surface and start experimenting with the shadows you can make on the paper. Try setting your objects directly on the paper, or holding them up above it. How do the shadows change?

Step 3: Trace the shadows on your paper. Don't worry about being perfectly on the line!

Step 4: Fill the paper with traced shadows until you like what you see. Make as many pages as you want, trying different things as you go.

Step 5: If you want to, take your coloring materials and fill in the shapes you've made! What new pictures can you make from the shadows you've traced?

Log Cabin Instruction Sheet

Materials:

- A lot of wooden sticks, anywhere in length between 6-10 inches.
- Pinecones if available.
- Piece of paper (colorful paper can make it more creative if possible).
- Glue, tape, or any other adhesive.

Instructions:

- 1) Begin by gathering as many wooden sticks as possible from outside! It might be helpful to do so with friends, family, or classmates to speed up the collection process.
- 2) Gather pinecones as well.
- 3) Begin by gluing two sticks to the paper next to each other, about 8 inches apart. For each thing that needs to be glued together, tape or another adhesive can be used.
- 4) Place two sticks on top of those. However, they should be in the opposite direction, to connect the ends of the sticks on the paper and to make a square.
- 5) Place two sticks in the opposite direction again, connecting the end of the two sticks below it.
- 6) Repeat step 5 until the square building is about 6 inches tall.
- 7) Glue sticks together side by side to make a wall about 8 inches by 10 inches.
- 8) Repeat step 7 to have 2 walls.

- 9) These walls will be the roof. Glue them together (the 8 by 8 sides) at an angle to make a triangle-shaped roof.
- 10) Glue the roof to the building, completing the house.
- 11) Apply glue where it is needed to strengthen the building.
- 12) Glue the pinecones around the house on the paper, to model trees around the house.
- 13) You are finished! Add any other nature materials or decorations to make your house special to you.

Nature Name Collage



Materials:

- 1 Piece of Paper
- Writing Utensil (pen or pencil)
- Anything from outside! (leaves, grass, petals, etc)
- Glue or Tape

Instructions:

1. On a piece of paper, write your name in BIG letters across the whole page.
2. Go outside and find as many leaves, petals, blades of grass, etc. as you can find.
3. Using what you wrote before as a guide, glue or tape down what you found outside onto the paper in the shape of the letters of your name.

Pet Rock Family



Materials:

- ❑ Several Rocks/Pebbles (as many as you want!)
- ❑ Sharpie Markers/Paint
- ❑ 2 Googly Eyes per Rock

Instructions:

1. Go outside and find a few rocks or pebbles of any size/shape/color.
2. Glue two googly eyes onto each rock.
(Option: Instead of gluing googly eyes to the rocks, draw or paint eyes onto the rocks!)
3. Decorate each rock with markers/paint/anything really.
(Tip: Give them a nice smile, or stylish outfit, or wild hair — get creative here!)

Nature Character



Materials:

- Leaves, acorns, twigs
- Colored pencils/markers/crayons
- Glue
- Cardstock or paper
- Googly eyes (optional)

Instructions:

1. Collect leaves, acorns, twigs, bark, and other materials you find outside!
2. Arrange these materials into a fun character on a piece of paper and then glue them down.
Optional: glue googly eyes onto your creature.
3. Draw a fun scene around your character!

Paper Bag Jellyfish

paper bag JELLYFISH



Materials:

- Paper Bag
- Markers, Crayons, and/or Paint
- Glue
- Googly Eyes (Optional)
- Scissors

Instructions:

1. Glue googly eyes to the top of the bag (if you do not have googly eyes, you can draw in eyes with a pencil or markers)
2. Color/paint the rest of your paper bag with whichever colors you like
3. Once your colors have dried, cut squiggly lines from the bottom of the bag, to halfway to the top

Stick Star Garden Mobile

Grades 4 and 5

Materials:

- 5 small sticks for each star
- Colorful embroidery floss (or string)
- 4 larger sticks for the top of the mobile

Instructions:

1. Go outside and gather large and small sticks.
2. Arrange five small sticks into a star shape and secure it with embroidery floss.
Optional: hot glue the sticks into place.
3. Wrap embroidery floss around the star frame until the star is covered with floss.
4. Repeat steps 2 & 3 until you have the desired number of stars.
5. Arrange the four large sticks into a square shape and use embroidery floss to secure it.
6. Wrap embroidery floss around the square frame until the square is covered with floss.
7. Tie the stars to varying lengths of embroidery floss and hang them from the square frame.



Sunflowers



Materials:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers, Crayons, and/or Paint
- Bowl or Cup

Instructions:

1. Place your bowl on the center piece of paper, and trace around it to create a circle
2. Cut out the circle, and color it in with your markers, crayons, or paint
3. Cut out flower petals, a stem, and few leaves from your other pieces of paper
4. Color them in using a different color for each part
5. Glue the circle to the center of a blank piece of paper
6. Glue the petals around the circle to create your own flower!