

Nature Crafts & Things-To-Do Booklist

Nature Crafts Programs!

1. Read a picture book or an exciting chapter from a juvenile fiction book.
2. Share fun facts from non-fiction books. Include maps, globes, and pictures.
3. Play a word game, word search, crossword puzzle, bingo, etc. based on your theme.
4. Play an active game; Four Corners is easy to prepare, easy to play, and fun for all ages.
5. Conclude with a craft or game using recycled items or materials from nature.

ANIMAL MASK-QUERADE Have fun creating animal masks from various materials. Have each child randomly pick a character for which they will make a mask and then when the masks are completed, have the children act out a story.

JUNGLE MOBILE Create a mobile of animals related to a book. Fold paper in half, draw the animals on the folded paper, color, glue on whiskers, glue the edges but leave an opening to stuff newspaper or cotton balls inside and then glue it closed. Punch a hole in the top/ center of each figure and string it with yarn or fish-line. Hang the 3D animals from a simple stick or a more complicated mobile.

ORIGAMI HOPPING TOAD Read a book and have kids make a hopping toad. Play with the toads.

PINECONE OWL Read a book and make owls with pinecones, wiggle eyes, buttons, and felt scraps.

MAKE A FACE MOBILE! Draw a picture of a face on tagboard; poke a few holes along the chin; tie a knot in a piece of string or yarn; tie miscellaneous colorful stones, jewels, marbles, etc into the yarn. Hang the face from your ceiling or in front of your window so the baubles catch the light.

FLIBBERS Recycled art from the 50's! A flibber is a tall, leafy, paper plant made from newspaper. http://www.ehow.com/how_4481073_make-paper-flibbers.html or <http://www.flibbers.com/gallery.html> or the book *How to Make Flibbers, etc, A Book of Things to Make and Do* by Robert Lopshire; Random House, Inc., 1964.

SELECTED RESOURCE BOOKS

Campbell, Kelly Justus. *Art Across The Alphabet: Over 100 Art Experiences That Enrich Early Literacy.*

Schiller, Pam. *Bugs, Bugs, Bugs! 21 Songs and Over 250 Activities for Young Children.*
Use the 26 songs on the CD with related activities to enhance themes in your program plan. Each song includes a list of facts and background information, lyrics, and trivia. Information about literacy skills accompanies each song, such as how the activities support print awareness and phonological awareness.

Hands-on Nature: Information and Activities for Exploring the Environment with Children.
Published by Vermont Institute of Natural Science; In association with University Press, c2000.
Encourage children's curiosity and concern about their natural world and give them experience from which they can gain an understanding of the way it functions. Book-talk related fiction and non-fiction titles. Parade children to your books or create a scavenger hunt leading them to the books.

Milne, Lyndsay. *Nature Crafts: Have Fun With Nature! More Than 80 Great Projects.*

Funny Face Vase, p41; craft supplies to create Funny Face Vases. Children could also make tissue paper flowers or just take the vase home as a gift for mom for her garden flowers. Fruit and Vegetable Animals, p80 or Potato Faces, p84. Invite children to act out a puppet show with their puppets. Give suggestions for picture books that can be turned into puppet shows. Jack and the Beanstalk, p98. Tell the story and follow up with making the fun craft project using a jelly jar, blotting paper, twig, and other regular craft supplies.

Seix, Victoria. *Materials From Nature. Blackbirch Press, 2000.*

Snag-a-Stone, p6. Collect stones to create animals and people figures. Paint each stone of each individual character one color. Put all the stones in a box. Invite children to take turns pulling a stone out of the box, assemble animals and people with the stones they draw or trade with other players to be able to assemble their figures. Stony Sand Portrait, p22. Use as suggested or make into a game. Provide a tray, a cup of sand, and a handful of stones to each child and have them create a face. Pass the tray to the right and have children rearrange the face using the pieces on the tray or exchange pieces with the stones they have left in their cup. Amazing Maze, p24.

Needham, Bobbe. *Ecology Crafts for Kids: 50 Great Ways to Make Friends with Planet Earth.*

Some of the projects would be tough to do in a library, but try: Paper Bag Books, p73; Eco-Envelopes, p75; Calendar Boxes, p81; Easy Recycle Bin, p86; Paper Quilts, p127; Tin Can Marionette, p136.

Nature Smart: Awesome Projects to Make with Mother Nature's Help.

This book is huge. There are instructions for many crafts, including a variety of books, journals, handmade paper, bookmarks, note cards, etc. It also includes the projects that are in the book by Bobbe Needham. *Ecology Crafts for Kids: 50 Great Ways to Make Friends with Planet Earth.*

Press, Judy. *The Kids' Natural History Book: Making Dinos, Fossils, Mammoths & More!*

Natural history is everything to do with life on earth, about plants and animals, habitats, ecosystems, cultures, rocks, earth, outer space. It's Art, Naturally, p117 shows kids how to make paints from items found in nature, like the first artists did it.

Press, Judy. *Art Starts for Little Hands! Fun & Discoveries for 3 to 7 year-olds.*

Tickle kids' curiosity as they explore animals, nature, and more through art. Look for craft ideas here for your story time or school-age programs. Invite kids of all ability levels to express their creativity.

Williamson, Susan. *Summer Fun: 60 Activities for a Kid-Perfect Summer.*

A book a day keeps illiteracy away. Reading books aloud and reading instructions or how-to-do-it books (such as this one) are all part of the solution. Sun Banner, p45 Crafters can make their own banners. Hang them in the library. Make a Moon Phases Flip Book, p78; My Most Awesome Room, p94.

Shedd, Warner. *The Kids' Wildlife Book: Exploring Animal Worlds through Indoor/ Outdoor Experiences.*

Watkins, Courtney. *Courtney's Creative Adventures: Zillions of Ideas for Things to Do.*

Martin, Laura C. *Recycled Crafts Box and Nature's Art Box.*

Nifty Thrifty Crafts for Kids. Various titles by various authors.

Much Ado About... Summer Reading Program 2009
Ideas gathered or created by
Geri Ceci Cupery (gccwriter@yahoo.com) and
Karen Wendt (wendtworks@ameritech.net)