



1. Earth Art

Supplies: An area that has natural material you can use: plants you can pick, dandelions, sticks, pinecones, acorns, grass, etc.

Explain that we're opening an earth art gallery and students can work in small groups to create masterpieces. Staff can facilitate group splitting if necessary, and it should be OK for some kids to work alone. You could also do a big piece, with all kids working together. Tell kids to start with some sticks (if available, for a frame) and give them a certain amount of time and space to create something--a sculpture, or a 2-dimensional design. At the end, do an art gallery tour and have each group show off their creation. Include photos of Andrew Goldsworthy's work.

Kids develop artistic abilities while working with natural materials and working outdoors. Based on lesson, this activity may meet requirements for the following Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Art and Design Education: A.4.1, A.8.1, C.4.5, C.4.8, C.8.7, C.8.9, H.4.1, H.4.3, K.4.3, K.8.3.

2. Building a Bird Nest

Supplies: Paper bags, twigs, leaf litter, mud

Talk about birds building nests in spring and laying eggs. Look for birds' nests. Give children a rolled down paper bag. Let them collect twigs, leaf litter, mud, etc. to build their own bird nest. Make eggs out of damp soil.

3. Leaf Prints

Supplies: Paper, crayons, leaves

Collect different kinds of leaves from the forest floor. Lay the leaves on a flat surface. Cover them with a piece of paper and color over the paper with crayons.

4. Nature Eyes

Supplies: Two sticks, colored yarn

Collect two sticks in the forest. Cross the sticks and tie one end of the yarn around the center of the sticks. Wrap yarn around the sticks in a circular motion. Change colors of yarn by tying a new color onto the end of the color being wrapped.

5. Nature Collage

Supplies: Construction paper, contact paper, stapler

Staple the contact paper (sticky side up) onto a piece of construction paper. Peel the backing off. Let children collect colored leaves and other natural materials and stick them to the contact paper. You may cover it with another piece of contact paper after the hike is over to make it less sticky. Can use your nature collage to create cards, journals, and placemats.