

Nature Creatures

Imagine you are on a hike with your family. You turn a bend in the trail and come across some tiny, cute little animals, but they are not real. They are made out of rocks and pinecones. What a great surprise! Have you ever made your own creatures made out of items collected in nature? If you haven't tried it, this is your chance. Just follow these basic instructions, get outside, and have some fun!

Supplies (most are optional):

1. Scissors
2. Glue (regular or hot glue)
3. Marker
4. A piece of paper
5. Pipe cleaner
6. Googly eyes
7. Nature Items (leaves, rocks, sticks, flowers, pinecones, acorns)
8. Bag to collect items

Steps:

1. Go out to your garden or park and collect interesting nature items
 - a. Don't forget your bag and mask
 - b. Collect items found on the ground
 - c. Only pick a flower if there are 10 or more (or if you have permission)
 - d. Flower petals can be found on the ground
 - e. Wash your hands when you are done
2. Lay out all of your found items and get creative
3. Start with the main body and head
4. Add the googly eyes (with regular glue)
5. Glue other pieces together (ask a guardian for help with hot glue)
6. Let your creatures dry completely
7. Display at home or hide them in a park or on a trail to brighten someone's day

Share your nature journal with us! [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or Joy@acparks.org

Parent Resources:

Exploring nature while collecting nature objects is an opportunity for children to get fresh air and exercise while practicing the scientific skills. Their skills of observation, focus, planning, and imagining are all part of the scientific process. This project will also enhance their creative process, imagination, and even fine motor skills.



Kids Gardening (<https://kidsgardening.org/>)

- Garden based lessons and activities to do at home.

Life Lab (<https://www.lifelab.org/2020/03/root-view-cups/>)

- The definitive resource for garden science exploration.

The Artful Parent (<https://artfulparent.com/nature-art-for-kids/>)

- Great ideas for nature-based art and exploration

The Craft Train (<https://www.thecrafttrain.com/21-ways-create-art-nature/>)

- Craft ideas for kids

Make sure to snap a photo of your child's creation and share it with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or even email it to Joy@acparks.org