



Nature Collection Book



Materials Needed:

5 small paper bags

1 pipecleaner or ribbon, yarn or string

Hole punch

Markers/colored pencils

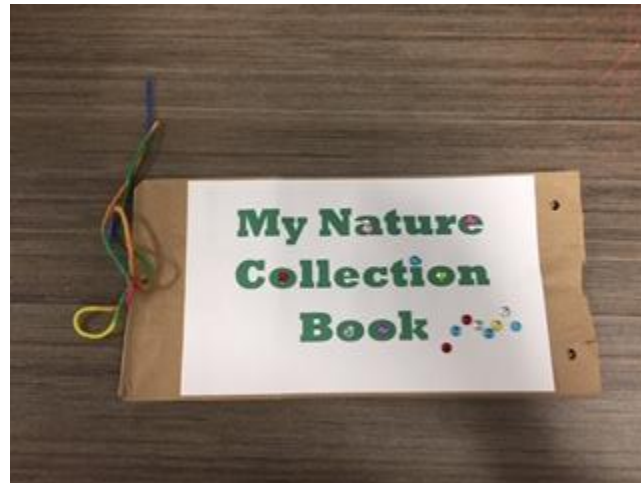
Stickers/sequins (optional)

Instructions:

1. Stack all 5 paper bags (or how many you have) on top of each other (flap side down). Make sure they are all facing the same way, and all evenly stacked.
2. At the closed end of the bags, make a hole punch (close to the edge of the bags and in the middle) through all five bags. If you cannot get through all the bags do them individually but make sure the hole is in the same place on each of the bags. Then make one hole through all the bags at the other side (open end of bags).



- Use the top bag as a title page for your book. Give it a title or decorate it with stickers, sequins or drawings of what you would like to collect.



- Use each of the other bags as collection bags for things you would like to collect from nature on your nature walks. You can label them with writing, or if you cannot write, you can draw or paste colored drawings on the top of the bag of things you want to collect.



5. Once you have all the collection bags made that you want in your book. You can use yarn, string, ribbon, or a pipecleaner to lace through each bag in the order that you want them. If you want to make a handle out of the pipecleaner then you can do this. Your collection book is then ready to carry with you outside as you collect items from nature.



Guidelines for Collecting Items in Nature

There are guidelines for collecting items in nature. Ask a grown up if you are unsure, but here are some basic rules to follow.

1. Items should not be taken from the private property of others. Only collect items that are free for the taking in public areas that are not parks or protected areas. You can of course take things from your own yard or property. Ask a friend or relative before taking fallen leaves or things from their yard, don't assume it is o.k.
2. Some public areas are off limits for taking items out of like National parks or protected environmental areas.
3. Try to take only one or a very small amount of something. If everyone collected a lot there would be nothing left! Old leaves and other things become mulch for fertilizing the soil.
4. Do not eat or ingest anything you pick up from the ground. Also be careful in public areas that there are no sharps (needles) or that the place is safe for collecting.

What you can do with Collected Items

There are so many things you can do with items from nature! You can make crafts with dried flowers and leaves, make pictures with materials from nature, make a nature sculpture, make a wind chime or a wall hanging or do leaf rubbings or bark rubbings. If you would rather just leave materials in nature you can also make land art and leave it where you found it for others to enjoy. Stay safe and have fun!

Land Art

Natural elements have been used since time immemorial by Indigenous groups in building structures, cultural items and art. An example of this in British Columbia are totem poles and masks by first nations groups. There are many books in the Vancouver Island Regional Library on this topic. Land art, also known as Earth art, environmental art, and Earthworks, is an art and social movement that started in the 1960s and 1970s. "Land art" expanded boundaries of art by the materials used and the areas of the works. The materials used were often the materials of the earth, including the soil, rocks, vegetation, and water, and the areas of the works were often in rural or unpopulated areas. As the style of land art has changed over time, artists now also use land art to draw attention to climate change or environmental issues. Some famous land artists are Richard Shilling, Nils Udo and Andy Goldsworthy. The work of these artists can be found in books in the Vancouver Island Regional Library.

These books include but are not limited to:

The Mask that Sang – Susan Currie

Hong Kong Story Totems – Bill Helin

Andy Goldsworthy: a collaboration with nature – Andy Goldsworthy

Enclosure – Andy Goldsworthy

Richard Shilling the land art artist even made a public website about how to do land art for kids <https://www.landartforkids.com/>

Submit your photo of land art to the Parksville librarian Susan Pierce at spierce@virl.bc.ca over the summer months (July/August 2022). If you give us permission, we will post your land art photo on social media. Please make sure there are no people or other private things in your pictures due to privacy policy of posting public photos. I will only post photos I have been given permission by the owner of the photo to post. There will be 3 grand prize winners for the most original idea, the most variety of natural objects used, and the most colorful photo. Please be safe in nature and only use leaves and flowers that have naturally been found on the ground. (See guidelines for collecting items above). See examples on the next page



