

SPRING SNAPSHOT

Create your own special snapshot of spring with a beautiful collage, using fantastic nature finds from your outdoor adventures.

Before you start, think about what you want to make. Do you want to glue your nature finds all over the paper in a random mix, or do you want to create a picture? For a picture, first try painting a background on the paper. When the paint is dry, you can glue your nature finds into place.

To protect your finished collage, mix a tablespoon of glue with a tablespoon of water. Using a soft, clean paintbrush, dab the watery glue all over the top of your finished picture and let it dry.

If you still have some leaves or pretty shells left over, make another one. No two pictures are ever the same!

YOU WILL NEED:

nature finds: shells, flowers, leaves, twigs

card stock or cardboard

glue

a paintbrush

paint (optional)



BUOYANT LEAF BOATS

You can set sail with just two leaves, a twig, and a little bit of water! Try making boats with different kinds of leaves to see which type works best.

YOU WILL NEED:

- two sturdy leaves for each boat
- a small, straight twig
- a small scoop of mud
- a body of water: a stream, a pond, or even a large puddle
- a grown-up—never play near water on your own!
- bark (optional)

Find two or three strong and slightly curved leaves, a bigger one for the boat and smaller ones for the sails. You could even use a curved piece of tree bark. For sails, the best leaves are light and thin.

Make a sail by poking a twig, now a mast, into the top part of the smaller leaf (about a third of the way down from the top), then push it down and make another hole (about a third of the way up from the bottom). Add a second sail if your twig is long enough to fit one.

Now stick the newly made mast and sail into the bigger, stronger leaf or a piece of bark. If the leaf is curved and the hole will sit just above the water, poke the mast just a little way through. If not, use mud to keep the mast and sail in place.

Wait until it's dry, then launch your boat on its voyage!



CARVE A SPOOKY PUMPKIN

Halloween originates from an ancient Celtic festival, where people believed spirits could interact with them only on the last day of October. People wore costumes to confuse the ghosts and made lanterns to put by their doors.

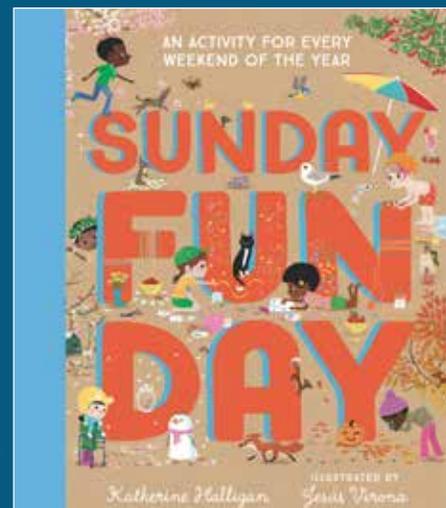
Choose a plump pumpkin from your garden or a pumpkin patch. To make it last as long as possible, wait to carve it until just before Halloween. It helps to first draw a face on your pumpkin using a marker. It can be scary, funny, or both! Make sure to keep the eyes, nose, and mouth far apart.

Ask a grown-up helper to cut out the top of the pumpkin, carving in a circle around the stem to make a little hat.

Using a spoon, scrape out all the squishy insides. Now ask a grown-up to help you cut out the eyes, nose, and mouth. You can even make ears, if you like! Wipe off any extra marker marks with a damp paper towel.

Put your smiling pumpkin head where everyone can admire it, either inside your front window or outside on the front step. Place an LED light or lit tea light inside, pop the hat back on top, and stand back to admire your spooky pumpkin!

For extra Halloween fun, try decorating minipumpkins or squash by drawing faces on them with dark permanent markers!



YOU WILL NEED:

- washable markers
- a large carving knife
- a large metal spoon
- paper towel
- a tea light or LED light
- permanent markers (optional)



MAKE A PINE CONE PAL

Pine cones can be used to make all kinds of animals and friends. You could create a whole forest full of animals or make up your own magical creatures! Here's an idea to get you started.

YOU WILL NEED:

- scissors
- colored paper or felt
- glue
- markers
- googly eyes
- clean, dry pine cones of different sizes
- feathers or dried leaves
- cotton balls
- colored string
- pipe cleaners



HEDGEHOG

Cut out a triangle from paper or felt, with slightly rounded points.

Either stick or draw a little nose onto one point, then glue googly eyes above it.

When the glue is dry, lay the pine cone on its side. Stick the triangle face just above the center of the pointy end of the pine cone, to make a perfectly prickly pine cone pet!

