



NATURE ART ACTIVITY

TURN LEAVES AND TWIGS INTO WORKS OF ART!

Episode: "Follow Those Footprints" (11 min.)

On Nature Art Day, Nature Cat proudly unveils a statue of himself made out of acorns...but where's its head? By following animal tracks, the gang can find the culprit.

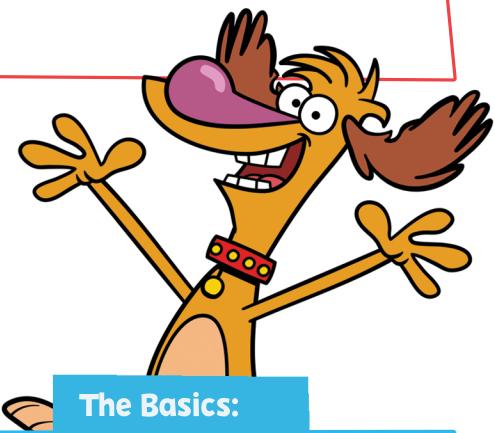
Episode curriculum goal: Animal tracks give clues about the kind of animal that made them, where it was going, and what it was doing.

Clips on PBSKids.org: "Nature Art Day"

*To view clips, visit PBSKids.org/video, click on Nature Cat and select Browse.

Goal of Activity:

Encourage children to express themselves, exercise their imaginations, and consider the shapes, sizes, and colors of natural objects.



The Basics:

Number of children: Any number. Younger children may need help from an adult.

Space: An arts and crafts space with tables, where kids can make a mess.

Time: Time to collect items outdoors: approx. 20-30 min.



What You'll Need:

- leaf A large assortment of leaves, twigs, small sticks, acorns, etc.
- leaf Construction paper or white unlined paper.
- leaf School glue (washable).
- leaf Crayons
- leaf Optional: Smocks or coverings to protect children's clothes.



Preparation (before children arrive):

- >If children will not collect items themselves: Collect a large assortment of leaves, twigs, acorns, etc. - enough to give each child plenty to choose from. Try to find a wide variety of shapes, colors, and sizes (but keep everything small and light enough to be glued to a piece of paper).
- Prepare the space as you would for any arts and crafts activity. Set out markers/crayons and bottles or bowls of glue.
- Optional: Make some nature art of your own in advance, as examples for the children.

Tally Ho! What to do:



- Bring children outside to gather interesting-looking natural objects: leaves, twigs, small sticks, acorns, etc.
- Encourage them to look for a wide variety of shapes, colors, and sizes. Avoid anything that might be dangerous (e.g., sharp sticks, thorns, heavy rocks) or too heavy to be glued to a piece of paper.
- Put the natural objects out on the table (either in bowls or simply in piles).
- Give each child one piece of paper. Have children choose and glue objects to their paper to make a collage. They can either make abstract designs, or use the natural objects to "draw" something specific.

Onward and Yonward! Take it Further:

Things to talk about: Once the children's collages dry, have them share and discuss them with each other. What did they make? What objects did they use? Encourage kids to talk about the different colors, shapes, and sizes of the objects they used.

Things to do: Try other kinds of nature art projects:

- Make rubbings of rocks or tree bark. Lay a piece of paper firmly on a rock or the side of a tree, and rub a crayon on the paper. A picture of the texture of the rock/bark will appear on the paper.
- Press rocks, sticks, etc. on a stamp pad, or dip them in paint. Then press them on paper to print designs.
- Take a nature walk. Bring a pad and some crayons, and draw what you see.

Look in a Book:

For more fun with nature art and nature craft ideas, check your local library for books like these:

- Sohi, Morteza. **Look What I Did with a Leaf!** Walker Publishing Company, 1993.
- Martin, Laura. **Nature's Art Box.** Storey Books, 2003.