

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM FEATURE ACTIVITY

NATURE WANDS

Nature Wands are a fun activity that encourage kids to engage with the outdoors. Once they've found a forked branch and a few leaves, they're ready to construct a wand-like creation that will guide them in imaginative outdoor play.

SUPPLY LIST:

- ☐ Forked stick (do not break branches—look for ones already on the ground)
- ☐ Leaves (again, not off trees but from the ground)
- ☐ String
- ☐ Thick string
- ☐ Decorative pieces (jingle bells, small ornaments, beads, etc.)
- ☐ Scissors



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Find yourself a stick with a good fork in it (branches out into two pieces), and a couple of leaves.
2. Wrap up the thick string around the bottom of the stick to create your handle. Tie the leaves to the bottom of the handle with string so they swing freely.
3. Start tying string from one branch to another. Once you have a web-like frame to work with, you're good.
4. Tie string to the decorative pieces and then tie them into the already-made string frame, or to the branches themselves.
5. Once you feel you've added enough pieces, you can begin to explore the outdoors with your nature wand.

ADDITIONAL TIPS:

- Depending on how tight you weave the string between the forked branches, you can use your nature wand to catch leaves as they fall from the trees. If you add more string and fasten the strings tightly, you'll be able to catch more leaves!



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PAPER BAG PUMPKINS

This cute kids' paper bag pumpkin craft is perfect for table decorations or, if filled with candy, a great party treat bag. They are easy to make with simple supplies for a fun Halloween craft for kids.

SUPPLY LIST:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown paper lunch bag (x1) | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown construction paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acrylic paint: orange & green | <input type="checkbox"/> 6- 12" pieces of green raffia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paintbrush | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors |



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Paint the outside of the lunch bag with orange paint. Paint the inside, top portion of the bag with green paint. Apply a second coat paint on the bag as needed.
2. When paint is completely dry, fringe the green section of the bag with your scissors into strips approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ " - 1" wide.
3. Fill bag with crumpled newspaper (if using as a decoration) or candy and treats.
4. Gather top of bag with your hand and tie a piece of raffia around it, just below the green section. Continue tying pieces of green raffia around the neck of the bag until all of it has been used.
5. Cut a 1.5" wide strip of brown construction paper and roll up into a tube. Insert the tube of paper into the center of the green portion of the bag as the stem. If these bags are used as decoration, you can glue the stem in place.

ADDITIONAL TIPS:

- To reuse these decorations at Halloween, add jack-o'-lantern faces by gluing on yellow construction paper facial features.



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CHILDREN'S MUSEUM FEATURE ACTIVITY

MAGIC PUFF PAINT

Kids love the texture of this paint. It's like painting with foam fabric paint - for a fraction of the cost!

SUPPLY LIST:

- ☐ White craft glue
- ☐ Shaving cream
- ☐ Food colouring
- ☐ Disposable containers
- ☐ Paint brushes



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Add some glue into a small disposable container.
2. Add a few drops of food colouring to the glue and stir.
3. Add some shaving cream to the glue and food colouring mixture.
4. Stir until all shaving cream is coloured, adding more food colouring as needed.
5. Make all sorts of different colours in separate disposable containers.
6. Paint pictures with your mixtures, being certain to paint it on THICK!
7. Let dry; then display your Magic Puff Paint work of art.



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SNOWMAN ON A STICK

SUPPLY LIST:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Egg carton cups (x3) | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver ribbon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toothpick (painted orange) | <input type="checkbox"/> Scrap of fabric (for scarf) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue buttons (x2) | <input type="checkbox"/> Acrylic craft paint: white, black, pink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown & green pipe cleaners | <input type="checkbox"/> White craft glue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medium pom poms (x2) | <input type="checkbox"/> Paint brush or cotton swab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jumbo craft stick | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small scrap of cardboard | |



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Trim the egg carton cups and paint them white. Let dry.
2. Paint the craft stick white and let dry.
3. Glue a blue button to the center of an egg cup, repeat with a second egg cup.
4. Use a paint brush or cotton swap to dab on pink cheeks to the remaining egg cup.
5. Cut orange toothpick in half and glue sideways to the center of the egg cup.
6. Glue head and two body pieces to the white craft stick, leaving enough of the craft stick at the bottom to use as a handle.
7. Trim a small amount of the green chenille stem, just enough to fit on top of the head for the ear muff band.
8. Trim one side flat on each pom pom, glue the flat side to the egg cup as ear muffs.
9. Wrap scrap of fabric around the neck of the snowman and glue in place. Use scissors to fringe the ends of the scarf.
10. Cut a small rectangle from the cardboard and paint it green, let dry.
11. Cut the brown chenille stem in three sections. Set one section aside for a future project. Use remaining two as the snowman's arms. Glue to the craft stick, underneath the egg cup. Bend at the "elbow".
12. Trim silver ribbon and glue onto green painted cardboard to make a present. Glue in a plus sign fashion. Tie a ribbon from silver ribbon and glue to the top.
13. Glue the present to the front of the snowman, gluing onto the bottom of the middle egg cup and the top of the bottom egg cup.
14. Position the arms so that the "hands" are behind the present, glue in place.
15. Use the handle end of a small paint brush to dip into black paint and dot on eyes and mouth.



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RAINBOW ICE CREATIONS

A fun and easy project, rainbow colours unite in these cool “sculpture” creations. And you don't even have to be outside to make them - all you need is some colourful water and a freezer!

SUPPLY LIST:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food colouring
(in your choice of colours) | <input type="checkbox"/> Small plastic or paper cups
(one for each colour used) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Cookie sheet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic containers in different
sizes and shapes (i.e., yogurt) | <input type="checkbox"/> Old towel(s) |



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Fill cups about 3/4 full with tap water.
2. Add a few drops of food colour to each cup and mix (red in one, blue in another, etc).
3. Place plastic containers on counter. Pour one colour into each container, filling about 1/3 full. You may choose yellow for one container and red in another, for example.
4. Place containers on a level surface in the freezer for about an hour or so, long enough for the liquid to harden.
5. Remove the containers from the freezer and pour on another layer with a contrasting colour.
6. Freeze again and repeat this process until containers are full and frozen solid.
7. Remove containers from the freezer and allow to sit at room temperature just long enough to loosen them so your sculptures can be removed.
8. Layer a cookie sheet with an old towel.
9. Remove ice sculptures from their containers and place onto towel(s).
10. Place your sculptures outside in the cold to admire daily or use as a table centrepiece for your next party!



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ROBOT CHARACTERS

Helloooo, Mister Roboto! This funky robot character can be shaped to do your bidding—no circuits attached.

SUPPLY LIST:

- ☐ Paper clips
- ☐ Foam or cardboard
- ☐ Decorations
- ☐ Paper clips
- ☐ Tin foil

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Take a piece of foam and/or cardboard and cut off what you don't want to make a body for your robot. Repeat to create a head. Once you have the sizes you want, cover them in tightly wrapped layers of tin foil.
2. Use paper clips to create the limbs of the robot - one for every limb you want it to have! Bend them straight and then cover them in tin foil. Make sure to leave 0.5cm of paper clip exposed. Once they are covered, insert them into the body and bend them in whatever pose you want your robot to assume.
3. Next up is the head! Depending on the size of your paper clips, you may want to cut a smaller piece than the rest. Take the small piece of paper clip and use it as the neck to connect the head to the body.
4. Once your robot has taken the form you want, start decorating it with whatever you want! Add some foam pieces, sparkles or anything else you can find.
5. Use your new robot as a dance companion. Be sure to try The Robot!



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CATERPILLAR CRITTERS

These crafty critters are much nicer to find in your child's room than the real thing. They're as bright and colourful as you can make them, and they don't need food or water to survive. Mix and match parts to be extra creative!

SUPPLY LIST:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Egg cartons | <input type="checkbox"/> Decorations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pipe cleaners | <input type="checkbox"/> Cup or cup lid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foam | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glue stick | |



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Making the head starts with a cup or cup lid. It varies depending on what you use; we used a plastic sippy cup lid. Using glue and scissors cut out face pieces and attach them however you want. We made a tongue because it looks funny!
2. Take your egg carton and cut it so you have one row of carton bumps, making it as long as you like. After your body is cut out, you can again start decorating with foam pieces or whatever decorations you have.
3. Attach the head and the body. Again, the type of cup and/or lid you used will affect how you attach it the head and the body. In the above example, we cut a hole into the carton and placed our sippy cup lid into it. If using a cup, you may want to cut a hole on the side of the cup so you can place it over one of the carton bumps.
4. We need legs! Cut the pipe cleaner into smaller pieces then pierce holes into the carton to place however many legs you want on your critter and bend them to have the caterpillar in a standing position. And you're done!



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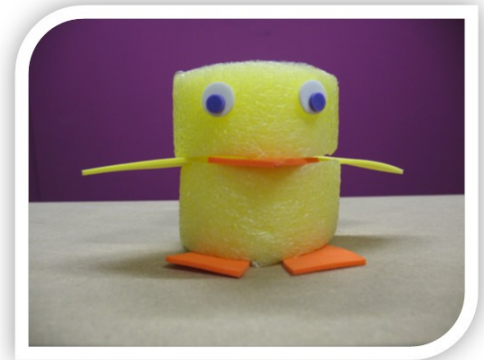
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FLOATING FOAM DUCKY

These foam ducks are not only fun to make, their fun to play with too! Make as many as you want, then have your very own duck race to see which one is the fastest swimmer in the flock.

SUPPLY LIST:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow pool noodle | <input type="checkbox"/> Glue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foam pieces | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors |



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Get your pool noodle and cut it into 1 to 2 inch rings. You only need 2 but you can adjust accordingly.
2. Cut out pieces of fun foam to make limbs and facial features then glue to pool noodle rings.
3. Allow glue to dry overnight.
4. Lead your duck to water and watch it float!



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TOTEM POLES

Traditional totem poles are freestanding sculptures carved from large trees by cultures of indigenous peoples in North America. Totem poles may tell familiar legends, detail family histories, or even describe notable events. Some poles celebrate cultural beliefs, while others are mostly artistic presentations. Make your own crafty totem pole and personalize it by giving all the characters unique faces!

SUPPLY LIST:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper towel roll | <input type="checkbox"/> Glue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foam pieces | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pipe cleaners | |



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Punch holes into the paper towel roll, insert pipe cleaners through holes, then bend them into whatever shapes you'd like.
2. Cut out pieces of fun foam to make facial features then glue to onto the paper towel roll.
3. Allow glue to dry, then put your totem pole on display for everyone to see!



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POTTED PLANTS

It's too early to start planting outside yet, but for those that just can't wait to see flowers again, this month's craft can help satisfy your gardening appetite. Just follow these simple directions to make your own potted plants that will bloom on your windowsill all winter long!

SUPPLY LIST:

- ☐ Pipe Cleaners
- ☐ Ribbon
- ☐ Beads (or rice)
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Adhesive Tape
- ☐ Aluminum Pie Plate
(muffin tins also work)



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Use 2-3 pipe cleaners to create the stem of the flower (green is most realistic, but you can also be creative!). Twist pipe cleaners together so the stem has more strength.
2. Curl the bottom of the pipe cleaner stem so that the stem will stand up on its own.
3. Take a pipe cleaner and wrap it around your finger until you have several small circles, then attach it to the top of the stem, using the top of stem to twist it on.
4. Cut ribbon (30cm or more); tie it to the top of the stem in a bow. Then use scissors to curl the ribbon.
5. Place flowers into tin bowl, taping stems to bottom if necessary. Fill container with beads and you have your potted plants!



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OCEAN-IN-A-BAG

These creative Ocean-In-A-Bag crafts make great projects for any pre-school-aged ocean lover. Fun and easy to make, all you need is a re-sealable plastic sandwich bag, corn syrup, blue food colouring, and some ocean-themed craft items to create a portable ocean of your very own!

SUPPLY LIST:

- ☐ Re-sealable plastic sandwich bag
- ☐ Corn syrup
- ☐ Blue food colouring
- ☐ Gold sparkles
- ☐ Foam ocean critters (star fish, sharks, squids, etc)
- ☐ Mini seashells



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Fill your bag until it is ¼-filled with corn syrup.
2. Add several drops of blue food colouring (note: the more corn syrup you use, the more blue food colouring you will need), seal the bag, then gently knead bag to mix it - creating a uniform-coloured blue ocean.
3. Open the bag and add gold sparkles to act as the sand for the ocean.
4. Add foam ocean critters and mini seashells that you would find in the ocean.
5. Re-seal the bag and carefully mix everything around to create your very own Ocean-In-A-Bag!



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