



Nature Crafting Activities

There are so many ways to utilize the outdoor world in a creative way. Crafting with natural resources allows us to use our imagination and learn about the environment.

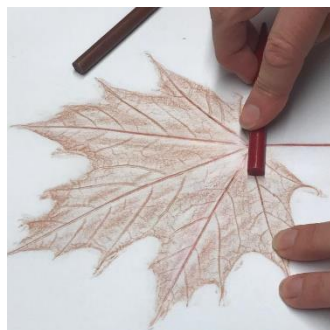
Leaf Printing and Rubbing

Leaf printing is a great way to identify some of the trees in your backyard by examining the leaves and make creative pictures out of them.

You can paint directly onto a leaf and press it onto paper or place a leaf underneath a paper and rub a crayon on top of the paper!



Leaf Printing Art from [The Imagination Tree](#)



Easy Leaf Print Art from [Brush Point Studio](#)



Leaf Prints with Paint from [Meaningful Mama](#)

You can print on various surfaces as well, such as rocks or clay!



Leaf Printing on Rocks from [Projects with Kids](#)



Leaf Printing on Clay from [The Imagination Tree](#)



DIY Natural Paintbrush

Materials:

- Sticks for the paintbrush handle
- Any material that would work well for bristles such as pine needles, grasses, etc.
- String or tape to hold everything together
- Colorful string like yarn or twine to decorate

To assemble:

- Gather a handful of your bristle material and tie or tape the bristles to the end of the stick.
- Wrap around the taped or tied area with a different colored string of your choosing.
- Try out your new paint brush.

Bonus: Try using different plants to observe the various textures and strokes they make with paint.



Nature Paint Brush by
Meghan Martin



Nature Paint Brushes from
[Apple Green Cottage](#)



Maple Seed Dragonflies

To create this dragonfly, all you will need are a few maple seeds, a small twig and glue. You can also decorate your finished product however you please.

The dragonfly wings are made from seeds that originate from the maple tree. They are called **samaras**.



Dragonfly Craft from [Buggy and Buddy](http://BuggyandBuddy.com)

Spider Web Preserving

Materials:

- Black construction paper
- White spray paint

Instructions:

- Be sure to find a web that is large, suspended between two plants or objects, and is in a place where you are okay with the possibility of getting spray paint.
- Spray the spider web with a generous amount of white spray paint. You can hold a newspaper behind it to catch the extra spray paint. I recommend spraying both sides of the web.
- Hold your black construction paper behind the spider web and pull through the web. This transfers the web onto the paper.



Preserving Spiderwebs from [Club Scrap Creates](http://ClubScrapCreates.com)



Preserving Spiderwebs by Meghan Martin and Duke Farms team



Rock Painting

This craft has tons of freedom! The rock serves as a blank canvas for whatever comes to mind. This craft is also suitable for all ages and can be as simple as needed. All you need are rocks, paint, and a paintbrush (try using your natural paintbrush)!



Rock Painting Art by Meghan Martin and Family

Note: In all cases, please respect the environment.

**Don't pick or collect a flower or plant that is not observed with commonality to the area.*

**Check spider webs for any activity before tampering with one. Some spiders use their webs for a day, but there are some that build upon an existing web or use their webs for longer periods.*

**Rocks serve purposes such as erosion control. Be selective when choosing one that does not negatively impact its surroundings.*

Don't forget to use your field guides to identify the resources that you are using. Discovering information about nature is part of the fun!