

all about plants

activities at home



Assemble a naturalist kit

Make your own kit of tools to help you observe plants in your neighborhood.

Items needed:

- Notebook for keeping records of what you see and do
- Pencils, colored pencils, and pens for taking notes and making drawings
- Magnifying glass or hand lens for a taking a closer look
- Plant field guide book to identify what you find
- Pocket tape measure or a 6" ruler to take measurements
- Tweezers to pick up tiny seeds or insects
- Small plant press to preserve specimens
- Bags and small boxes for things you collect
- Drinking water, snacks, and a sun hat for you!
- Small bag or knapsack to hold it all



Places to go:

- Your yard
- Local park
- Playground
- School yard
- Nearby field
- Botanical garden
- Nature center

Things to do:

- Draw or trace the shapes of leaves. Make notes on location of plant or its name (if you know it). Also try leaf rubbings.
- Look for insects living on leaves and stems. How many kinds can you find? Draw and measure them.
- Document the different kinds of plants you find. How many kinds of trees, shrubs, or flowers do you find? Is any one plant most "popular"? Which plant is most rare?
- Make rubbings of tree bark (like making leaf rubbings, only press paper to the side of the tree trunk).

