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WEBELOS NATURALIST



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TAKE A HIKE SURVEY

Preparation: Make a copy of the survey sheet for each boy and bring along a tape measure and some crayons.

How big is nature? Can you hear it? How does it feel? You'll need to use all of your senses to complete this hike survey.

AROUND, WIDE, AND LONG

Use a tape measure to find each of these measurements.

1. Circumference (distance around) of the biggest tree _____
2. Circumference of the smallest tree _____
3. Distance between any two trees _____
4. Length of a leaf close to the length of your nose _____
5. Width of something more narrow than your thumb _____
6. Length of a friend's shadow _____





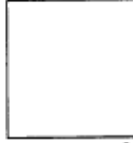
USING YOUR SENSES

Use your eyes, ears, nose and fingers to find something that fits each description.

1. Smells good _____
2. Makes a noise _____
3. Feels bumpy _____
4. Looks wrinkled _____
5. Likely to change the way it looks _____

HOW DOES IT FEEL?

Look for objects that fit the descriptive words by the boxes below. Place this paper over each object, one object to a box. Use a crayon or pencil to make a rubbing of each object.

				
smooth	gritty	ridged	grooved	patterned



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NATURE WINDOWS HANGING

Materials needed:

used furnace filters clear Contact paper
yarn for hanging scissors
small wildflowers or tiny leaves

This display of nature's beautiful leaves and flowers is an easy but meaningful craft for spring, summer, or fall. Cut apart the furnace filter, keeping the outside cardboard only. Cut to shape as shown, then place on the sticky side of clear Contact paper. Place nature items in each space. Cover with a second piece of clear Contact paper. Press the Contact pieces together and trim around the edges. Poke a hole in the top and tie on yarn for hanging.

BIRDHOUSE TIE SLIDE

Materials needed:

1 piece 1 1/2 " x 2" balsa wood
2 pieces 3/8 " x 1 1/4 " balsa wood
1 piece 1/4 " x 3/3 " wood dowel
brown, black and red markers
Exacto knife if wood is not pre cut

glue
1/2" PVC pipe

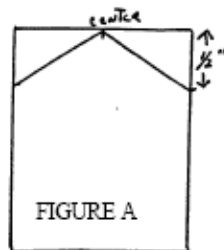


FIGURE A

Cut the pitch for the roof of the birdhouse at wood. Measure about 1/2" from the top corner down and center of the piece (figure A). Glue on the 2 pieces of balsa at the top to form the roof of the birdhouse. Now, draw lines to give the appearance of wood shingles (figure B). Glue the dowel for the perch about 1/4" from the bottom center. Draw a 1/2" circle and fill in with black marker to show the birdhouse entrance (figure C). Glue the 1/2" PVC pipe in back about 3/4" from the top of the birdhouse as the neckerchief slide back. Color the roof top with red marker.



FIGURE B

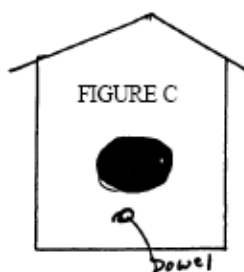


FIGURE C



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PINE CONE POOCH TIE SLIDE

Materials needed:

petal from large pine cone *wiggly eyes*
brown felt or fun foam *½" PVC pipe*
small black pom-pom *glue*

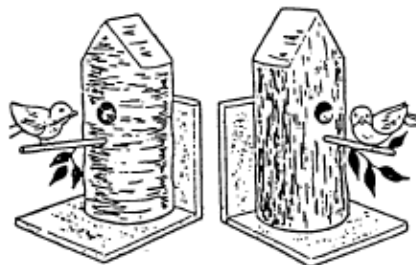
With the wide end of the pine cone petal at the top, glue small black pom-pom on the pointed bottom for a nose. Glue on the eyes. Cut large floppy ears and glue in place. Small pointed ears, properly placed, would turn this pooch into a wolf. Hot glue PVC pipe to back for neckerchief slide back.



BIRD HOUSE BOOKENDS

Materials needed:

two 7" pieces of log about 3" in diameter
four 5" squares plywood *wood glue*
sharp pocket knife *drill*
dowel same size as drill bit
silk birds and/or leaves if desired



Use a piece of log for each birdhouse. Be sure the bases of the logs are flat and level. Carve the tops into peaked roofs. For a perch, drill a small hole in the log and insert a dowel. Glue in place. Outline a circular opening for the entrance above the perch. Carve this opening, making it as deep as desired. An inexpensive little novelty bird can be set on the perch. Add a few plastic or silk leaves if desired. As a base for each bookend, glue two squares of plywood or other lightweight wood at right angles as shown. Glue the base of the birdhouse to the wooden square.

BIRDHOUSE FACTS

Birds won't like it if you:

Make the opening too small
Place the box in the dense woods
Fail to protect birds nesting in the box
Place the house in a tree accessible
to cats, squirrels, weasels, and small children

You are for the birds if you:

Place your house on a pole
Set houses fairly low and space far apart
Keep houses in partial sunlight
Set backside facing prevailing winds

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SOUNDS AND COLORS






In a forest, meadow, marsh, or park, have the boys lie down on their backs with both fists held up in the air. Every time someone hears a new bird song, he lifts one finger. Who has the best hearing? This is a wonderful way to make boys aware of the sounds and the stillness of nature. For fun, see if you can count to ten without hearing a bird song. Vary the game by listening for general animal sounds or sounds like wind in the grass, falling leaves, or rushing water. To get boys to concentrate more deeply in any natural setting, ask them how many different colors and shades of colors they can see in front of them without moving from where they are standing or sitting.

INSECT BINGO

Preparation: Using cardstock, make a copy of the bingo chart for each boy in the group. Have each Webelos make a game card, or "bug board", by cutting apart the squares and pasting them in a new arrangement on a clean sheet of cardstock or cardboard. All cards will have the same items, but the items will be arranged differently.

Take your group for a walk. The Webelos are to look for the items and insects shown on their sheets.

When someone spots one of them, discuss it. Then, take a pencil and place an X on that square. First boy to get bingo wins and you start again.

 ANT	 INSECT PREDATOR	 INSECT EGG CASE	 INSECT HOME
 INSECT FOOD	 INSECT RELATIVE	FREE SQUARE	 GALL
 COCOON	 BEE	 BUTTERFLY	 INSECT DAMAGE
 INSECT EGGS OR LARVAE	 BEETLE	 INSECT CAMOUFLAGE	 WATER INSECT



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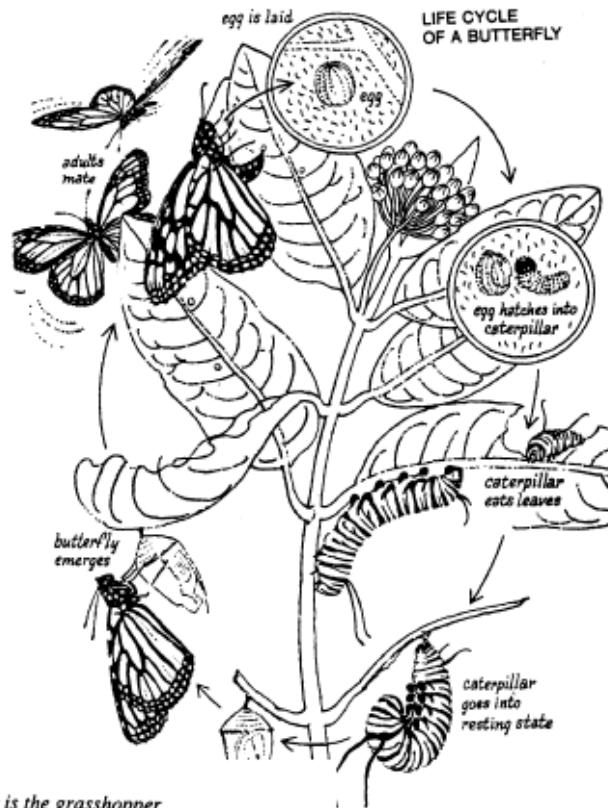
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CATERPILLARS AND BUTTERFLIES

Look for cocoons attached to stems and leaves of grasses. Look for caterpillars inching along stems. They often do great damage to plants. Look for partly eaten leaves and flowers, which are clues to caterpillars. This picture shows the life cycle of a butterfly.



This is the grass.



This is the grasshopper that eats the grass.



This is the frog that eats the grasshopper that eats the grass.



This is the snake that eats the frog that eats the grasshopper that eats the grass.



BASIC FOOD CHAIN OR ECOSYSTEM

Animals and plants live together in communities called ecosystems. All the living things in an ecosystem are linked together in food chains. Here's an example of a food chain. Can you draw another example of a food chain?

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INSECT GLIDERS

Materials needed: foam trays from meat straight pins markers glue paper clips

These are made from plastic foam trays. Enlarge the patterns to desired size and make paper patterns of the pieces you need. Dotted lines are placed on folds in the paper. Trace (unfolded) onto foam trays. Cut out foam pieces and make slits where indicated in the body pieces. The stabilizers are inserted through the butterfly (see small inset picture) and the wings are glued and pinned on top of bodies. Paint insects with permanent felt markers. Add a metal hair pin or paper clip to the front for weight. Adjust the clip if necessary.

