



Grade: 3 - 5

Art Educator: Haydee Ullfig

Creating with natural materials found outside in our backyard, in the park or in our neighborhood is always a great way to learn about re-using and taking care of our planet while getting to know the natural world around us.

Now get outside and see what you can find!

Suggested Reading (For read aloud and further information):

Finding Wild, by Megan Wagner Lloyd

Trees, Leaves and Bark, by Diane Burns

Materials:

- Dried leaves, pine cones, skinny branches, seeds, bark (be adventurous and see what you can find outside; preferably dried materials. You may not use up all that you collect, but don't worry. Have fun collecting! (See photo on right of my collection)
- White paper or cardboard
- Elmer's Glue
- Paint (I used green, red, black and white), brush and water, paper plate
- One wine cork, cut in slivers by an adult (for googly eyes)

Some of the materials I used in this project are shown below:



OAK LEAVES



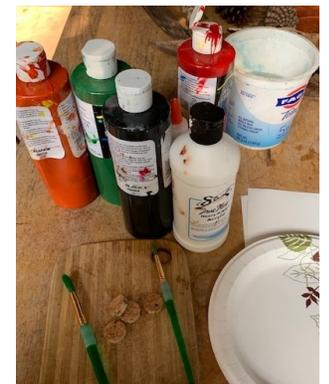
TREE BARK



PINE CONE



Pine Cone broken up (see the tiny pine seeds on the left?)



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Instructions:

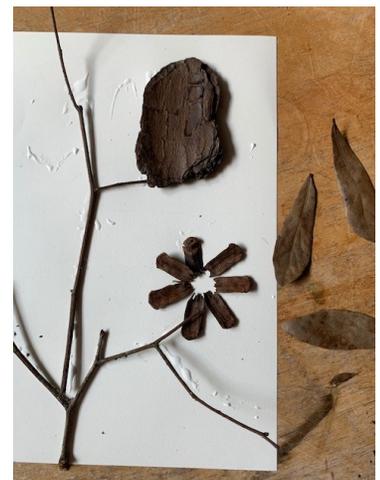
- Decide which natural material you want to use first and glue on to the paper.

NOTE: I glued a skinny dried branch from my rose bush. Remember, you may not need to use all of the materials you collected. Just choose the ones you want.

- To make the flowers with the pine cone, break apart a pine cone as shown on the right.

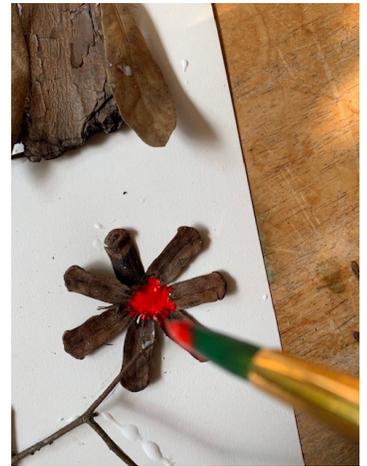
- Glue the pieces of pine cone to make the petals for a flower. (see photo at right)

- Glue a piece of tree bark on to one of the branches (this will be the body of the owl). Choose a “chunky” piece if you want a fat owl.



Instructions:

- Finish gluing the petals on the flower and then paint the inside of the flower (I used red, but you can use any color).



- Glue any other natural materials you want.

OPTIONAL BIRD:

- I glued a seed pod from a tree because it looked a bit like a bird (seed pod on left side). This will now become a bird.



- NOTE: You can help the items to stick better with the glue by laying a heavy object on top until the glue hardens. I used the paint containers as I went along.



- Paint the slivers of cork white and once the white paint is dry paint with black paint to make the “googly” eyes (you will need three googly eyes; two for the owl and one for the bird)). - See photos below



Instructions:

- Once the paint on the eyes is dry, glue the googly eyes to the owl (and to the bird if you are doing the bird).
- Glue some oak leaves to each side of the owl body to make the owl's wings (and some leaves to the bird as wings).
- Tear off two small pieces from the rounded edges of two oak leaves and paste each leaf piece to the bottom of the owl to make the owl's tail (see photo on right).
- Paint some of the smaller oak leaves with green paint.
- Once painted leaves are dry, glue along branch to make the leaves of the branch (see last for photo showing the leaves).
- Break off a small piece from the pointed end of an oak leaf and paint with red paint. This will become the owl's beak (see photos below; the one on left shows the tip of the leaf and the photo on the right shows the tip once it's been painted).



NOTE: The photo on the right shows the bird, which I decided to include. I glued dried oak leaves for the wings of the bird and painted the seed pod a bit with white paint. All that's left to do is to glue the googly eye on the bird.



Instructions:

- Glue the painted beak to the owl.
- Keep placing the paint containers (or other heavy items) on top of the materials glued to keep them in place as you go along.
- Let everything dry for a few hours.

Photo on right shows completed project with the owl and bird.
Note the green leaves along the branches.



This art lesson is brought to you by Art Educator Haydee Ullfig
and Center for Creative Education in West Palm Beach, Florida.

SEND US A PHOTO OF YOUR COMPLETED PROJECT, AND YOUR WORK COULD BE FEATURED
ON OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA SITES! PLEASE SEND THE PHOTO, ALONG WITH YOUR
NAME, AGE, AND CITY TO info@cceflorida.org . Visit us at www.CCEFlorida.org .