

## Kid Activities and Crafts



### Winter

- Hike in the woods: Have students write a story and then hang it on a walking trail so everyone can read it as they walk by.
- See how water moves through a plant- xylem and phloem.  
Have a stick of celery and a cup of water and food colouring. Put 10 drops of colour in the water and stir. Cut the celery stem and put it in the water. watch the stem and see how the water flows up the xylem. Have another celery stem that is not in water and compare it to the celery stem in water. Once done you can eat the celery stem and compost the other and use the water to water any plants and see the plant change colour after a day or two.
- Christmas bird count: Participate in Birds Canada Annual bird count. For more information search Christmas Bird count or click <https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/christmas-bird-count/>

Saw this technique online and thought I would try it. Put gatherings of natural items in a pan....cover with water and leave out overnight to freeze. Remove from pan and you have a free suncatcher. Now all I need is the sunshine.



• Photo Credit- unknown



## Spring



- Window Accessories for birds- Putting window stickers, pictures or hanging objects in your windows will help birds and other flying insects see that there is something there and that they should be careful.
- Toad Home- find a spot from invasive plants. Gather some sticks, stones, twigs bark or anything fallen on the ground. Make a small house or teepee. Put some leaf litter in the house and keep watch.
- Bird Feeder- Toilet paper roll, pinecones if on the ground. You can use shortening and seeds, cotton, natural nut butter with no sugar. Roll or spread the shortening or nut butter on the roll or pinecone and roll it in bird seeds. Hang outside. Be patient and try to make it reliable food source.
- Importance of water drainage and garden cover.



- Do a special activity for Earth Day that happens in April every year.

## Summer

- Sound Map- for all seasons. Have a sheet of paper and pencil and sit with your eyes closed and listen to the sounds around you and draw the sounds that you hear on the paper. You can do this at different times of day or in different locations and compare the differences. Your backyard, a school yard, a field etc. Lots of options to choose from. Listen for birds singing they can be represented as music notes, water moving- ripples, wind- ripples.
- Plant a pollinator garden so that bees can have a place to get food and nutrients. The Pollinator Garden has to have native plant species- these are not always at a nursery. They can be found on blazing star company or google native species in Saskatchewan. [Click this](#) for more information on Pollinator gardens.





- You can make your own seed starters. Just get a toilet paper tube and wrap it in newspaper found in the house and make sure the bottom is covered and fill with soil and plant the seed in it.
- Plant press: collect a plant from the ground or from your own garden and press it between newspaper and then stack heavy books on top and let it dry for a few weeks. You can change the newspaper out frequently. Once the plants are dried you can put them in a picture frame or glue it on a piece of paper.

## Fall

- Make your own water filter. Get a bottle and cut the top off, invert the top into the bottom of the bottle. Place a coffee filter in funnel then place 1 cup soil on top of the coffee filter. Time how fast the water goes through. Add another cup of soil and time how fast the water goes through. Add another cup of soil on top and time how fast the water goes through. You can add organic matter or small stones, larger stones, sand another coffee filter or anything else you can think of.

Why do this experiment- you can see how the amount of soil effects the drainage rate. You can see how different types of soil will affect drainage. And how important it is to have a mix of soil for optimum growth for plants.

- Take a walk through nature and have students collect leaves, twigs etc. that have fallen on the ground – do not let students/kids pick live plants and trees- of either all the colours of the rainbow or have the child choose a colour on their outfit and have them look for that colour in nature.



- Make your own edible aquifer.

