

## **I Notice, I Wonder, It Reminds me Of**

All ages | No Supplies Needed | Activity | Tech Free | Individual or Group

Find an interesting leaf, branch, rock, shell, flower etc. Spend at least 2 minutes reflecting out loud about each of the following:

1. Make observations about the object. (Ex. "It has a scent" is a great observation while "It smells good" is a judgement)
2. Voice anything you wonder about the object. Do not try to come up with answers, just let your mind get curious!
3. Express what the object reminds you of

Spend at least two minutes sharing responses out loud about what you notice, what you wonder, and what it reminds you of and feel the connection between you and that object grow!

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## **Bal Tashchit Bingo**

Reading age+ | No Supplies Needed | Activity | Tech Free | 2+ people |

Kids Activity: Bal Taschit/Do Not Destroy Bingo!

Find objects around the house to use as bingo markers and play a fun bingo game to explore ways that you can, or may already be, positively impacting the earth!

<https://tinyurl.com/baltashchitbingo>

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## **Nature Notes**

All ages | Activity | Tech Free | Individual or Group

Designs will be limited by what can be found outside. Walk around your home and find bits of vines, flowers, leaves, ferns, etc. Fold construction or other paper in half or quartered. Glue natural found objects on the front of the card. Let it dry and then add personal messages, birthday greetings, inside of the card. Drawn designs with marker, paint, or crayon can be added.

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## **Teva Taboo**

Reading age+ | No Supplies Needed | Tech Free | 2+ People

A Taboo game with earth-based and Jewish terms

<https://tinyurl.com/TevaTaboo>

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### **Pinecone Birdfeeder**

Elementary School Ages | Activity | Tech Free | Individual or Group

Take a walk outside and pick up a large pinecone or other beautiful object that fell from a tree. Once you are back inside (your kitchen) put 1/2-3/4 cup peanut butter in a small pipette bag or grab a small spoon. Gently fill each of the holes of the pinecone with peanut butter. Sprinkle birdseed on top of the pinecone and set or hang outside to share with your flying friends! (With possible peanut allergy concerns, vegetable shortening can be used.)

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### **Where are My Bees?**

Elementary School Ages | No Supplies Needed | Activity | Tech Free | 2+ People

<https://tinyurl.com/wheremybees>

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### **Leaf Splatter Painting**

All Ages | Activity | Tech Free | Individual or Group

Place a leaf in a desired position on a blank sheet of paper. With cardboard under the sheet, use pins to hold the leaf in place. Dip a discarded toothbrush into a cup of paint. Use your finger to pull back on the bristles, and the paint will spray over the leaf and on the paper. When the leaf is removed, the silhouette of the leaf remains as a design.

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### **Leaf Rubbings**

All Ages | Activity | Tech Free | Individual or Group

Hunt for different leaves outside. Place the leaves under a blank sheet of regular weight paper. Using the side of crayons, (paper removed) rub over the leaf until you see it appearing, outline and all. Use the same leaf, changing its position, and do another rubbing on the same sheet. Change colors of crayons. Change leaves. This becomes a fun collage.

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### **Garden Rocks**

All Ages | Activity | Tech Free | Individual or Group

Hunt for interesting shaped rocks. Wash and dry the rocks. Can you paint them to look like animals or insects? (a lady bug, a cat, etc) Or, how about writing a word on it that means

something to you and decorate it. (Friendship, hope, peace, love, etc.) After it dries, it can be placed in the garden if you use acrylic paints. (Tempera or poster paints will run off from the rain)

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### **Pine Cone Friends**

Elementary School Ages | Activity | Tech Free | Individual or Group

Can you find a pine cone outside? With colored construction paper, glue, markers, feathers,....can you turn it into an animal or a feathered friend? Once pieces of paper for tails, beaks, wings, etc are glued on and dry, a string can be tied on and it can be hung in the house. Essential oil will add a great scent to it as it hangs for display.

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### **Charm Mobile**

Elementary School Ages | Activity | Tech Free | Individual or Group

A mobile is a collection of small objects hanging from a much larger object. Find a nice branch that the wind blew off of a tree. Make sure it has several small branches coming from it. Cut some interesting shapes from construction paper and color with nice designs or pictures of favorite things. You can also attach leaves from outside. Place a hole on the top of each shape and attach a string of yarn. Each of these (at least 6) should be tied at different points on the branches. Hang the branch over your porch outside. When the wind passes through, they sway gracefully in all directions. They move or become mobile.

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### **Eggshell Garden**

All Ages | Activity | Tech Free | Individual or Group

Whoever thought that an eggshell could be used as a flower pot? Really, you can only grow grass in it! Take half of an empty eggshell, the kind you otherwise would throw out! Wet a piece of sponge and place it inside of the shell. Sprinkle it with grass seed on the top of the sponge. Sprinkle a little water on it every day. The grass will start growing in a week. You won't need a lawnmower to cut the grass, though. A pair of scissors should do the trick!

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### **Nature Mandala**

All Ages | No Supplies Needed | Activity | Tech Free | Individual or Group | Outdoors

Mandala is a Sanskrit word for "magic circle". Nearly every culture uses mandalas or circular images in their cultural or spiritual practices. Making a natural mandala, you will need a collection of many found objects like stones, acorns, pinecones, shells, sea glass, pieces of bark that have come off of a tree. Find a place that will allow your mandala circle to grow and

get larger. Start from the center of the circle and work your way around and around it. It might be better to start with the largest of your objects. As you create the continuous circling, you may decide to first place a series of rocks, then a series of pinecones, and then something else. Think about your beautiful pattern that you are creating. Whenever you go back to the mandala, adding items will keep it growing and getting larger and more beautiful.

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### **Smell Collage**

All Ages | Recycled Supplies | Activity | Tech Free | Individual or Group | Indoor

Provide sensations for the eyes, nose, and hands. Find a variety of spices in the kitchen cabinet. Each spice is beautifully colored, textured, and has its own distinct aroma. Show the whole spice if possible. Experience crushing peppercorns or cloves. Grate nutmeg and discuss how the aroma is released when the spice is broken down. On a sheet of paper or cardstock, brush diluted glue on one area. Sprinkle one spice on this and shake off excess. Continue with other spices in other areas, one at a time. Possibly frame with cinnamon sticks or whole cloves. Enjoy and identify the spices!

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### **Daily Journal**

All ages | Activity | Tech Free | Individual or Group | Indoor

With paper that could be recycled, measure and cut into 4 quarters. (there can be printing on one side, as long as there is blank space on the side that will show for writing) Start with approx, 4 full sheets which means 16 pages. Punch a hole or two on the top of each so that the pages can be held together with yarn or a metal ring. Design the top page as the cover. Each page can be a diary of what is learned, explored, and expressed feelings each day.

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### **Surprise Shape Art**

Ages 3+ | Recycled Supplies | Activity | Tech Free | 2+ people | Indoor

Find scrap cardboard (boxes, cards and ads sent in the mail) Cut into different shapes, geometric as well as organic (at least 10+). Drop these shapes in a box. Reach in and pull out one or two shapes. Trace the shapes on paper with a pencil. What can you make the shapes into? Flowers? Animals? A car? A person? What else? Put the shapes back in the box and pick again. Make a game out of this.

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## **Shrinkies**

Ages 4+ | Recycled Supplies | Activity | Tech Free | Individual or Group | Indoor

Do you have a foam tray that vegetables, chicken, or meat came on from the store? Use permanent markers and draw/color objects, faces, etc. (Remember, the design will shrink!) Cut it out and pop in a hole for a pendant or to be hung. Place the cut-outs on a foil-covered baking sheet. An adult should put it in the oven at 300 degrees for 3-5 minutes. Watch carefully. If at 5 minutes the piece has curled, an adult can use a spatula or flat metal to flatten it. Remove it from the oven and when cool, it will be small and hard. Add a string for a pendant or decoration, a magnet for a refrigerator note holder, or a clasp for a decorative jewelry pin.

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## **Wrapped Jars, Bottles, and Cans**

All Ages | Activity | Tech Free | Individual or Group | Indoor

How can we beautify some, not so beautiful, jars, bottles, and cans? Find yarn or ribbon in different colors, Brush glue an inch at a time running from the bottom of the container. Make sure that you are wrapping the yarn around and around, and making sure that there is no space left between rows of yarn. Add more glue as you move up the container. Change colors as often as you would like. Cut the yarn at the top. The beautiful container can hold flowers, pencils, etc.