

“In the Wild”

Module 1, Designing with Nature



Prompt:

Arrange natural objects to make a design – either follow pre-drawn lines or create your own arrangement!

Try making...

- A funny face
- A scene (a house, a car, etc.)
- Something totally awesome from your imagination!

Materials:

- Any natural materials you have gathered earlier in the week, including:
 - Shells
 - Dried beans
 - Rocks
 - Pine needles
 - Pine cones
 - Leaves
 - Sticks
 - Acorns
- Painter’s tape or large paper and a marker

Instructions:

1. Read the prompt with your child to help get them thinking about their design. Look at some of the example pictures below in the “Resources” section.
2. Work together to create a large outline of a shape, using either painter’s tape or large paper and a marker. This will be your child’s workspace.
3. Set out the natural materials you gathered together earlier in the week.
4. Some kids will dive in right away and know what they want to design. Others may need a more focused prompt to get started. You know your child best! If they are stuck:
 - Suggest they start by using the materials to outline, or create a border, for the

shape you made together. Some children will really enjoy the task of arranging materials along a line or curve.

- Encourage them to make a simple face design.

Resources:

Need inspiration? Check out some of the great designs visitors made when we did this activity in the Art Lab at Boston Children's Museum:





Extensions:

If your child needs more challenges to go along with this activity:

- Have them draw a simple scene or drawing on a piece of paper. Then, challenge them to recreate the scene on a larger scale with the materials.
- If your child likes a specific pattern (stripes, polkadots, etc.), encourage them to create a design that looks like that pattern.
- Tape or draw a new outline shape with your child – maybe try a funky abstract shape they’ve never seen before!
- Give your child a plate or a placemat. Invite them to make a “meal” out of the natural materials.

Together with your child, go to the “In the Wild” topic on Flipgrid and share their nature designs.