

Plants & Animals Junior Badge

Plants & animals play a big part in your everyday life. Complete six activities below and find out just how big a part...

ACTIVITY #1

Gardeners use plants to make sculptures that are alive! They train and trim plants into shapes, this is called topiary! Make your own topiary tree using one of the examples below.

Artificial flower topiary tree

Materials Needed: 1 lb. artificial rose buds, 10" Styrofoam ball, 12" dowel, 12" wide flower pot, wire edged ribbon, glue gun & glue sticks, moss, florist clay

Instructions: Put florist clay in the bottom of the clay pot, Insert dowel into styrofoam ball, then place into flower pot. Use moss to fill in between the dowel and the pot. Then cover top with moss. Glue the rosebuds onto the vball with a glue gun. Finish off with a little bow tied around the center of the stick.

Fruit Topiary Tree

Made from faux fruit. this fruit medley makes for an interesting table decoration.

What You Need: Table knife, 12-inch-tall green plastic-foam cone with 4-inch base, Toothpicks, Wood glue, Miniature artificial pears, plums, kumquats, blueberries, and cranberries. Grape leaves, pretty dish or plate to display tree.

Instructions: Use a table knife to trim off the tip of a plastic-foam cone. Put a generous amount of wood glue on the entire length of a toothpick. Insert one end of toothpick into a pear and the opposite end into top of cone. Continue attaching pears to cone in rows, working from top to bottom. 3. Fill in gaps between pears with miniature plums, then kumquats, attaching them in the same manner as the pears. 4. Finish with blueberries and cranberries, using toothpicks cut in half to attach. 5. Randomly tuck grape leaves into arrangement, dabbing glue on stems to secure in place. 6. When cone is covered with fruit as desired, let glue dry. Place the cone on a pretty plate or dish.

ACTIVITY #2

People around the world use seeds to make decorative items, such as jewelry and mosaics. Make your own mosaic item using the one of the following patterns.



SEED TOPIARY

Gather seeds and beans to create a geometric design in a clay pot.

You will need: 4" Styrofoam® ball, 2 1/2" Styrofoam® ball, 6" Cinnamon stick
2 1/2" Clay pot, Tacky glue, Small handful of green moss, 3 Strands of natural raffia, 4 Rubber bands, Fine point permanent marker, Toothpicks, Scissors, #2 Soft pencil, Ruler, Dried green and yellow split peas, Dried black, red kidney and navy beans

Instructions: Glue the 2 1/2" ball into the pot. Push hard on the foam with your fingers until the foam is level with the top of the pot. Make a hole in the center of the foam with the pencil. Place a rubber band around the 4" ball dividing it into 2 equal parts. Place two more rubber bands around the ball dividing it into six sections. Place the fourth rubber band around the center of the ball across the other rubber bands. There are now twelve sections. Make lines along the rubber bands with the marker, then remove the bands. Sort the different peas and beans (an egg carton is great for this). Work first on one side of the center line. Glue the black beans along the lines to form sections. Spread one section with glue. Glue a kidney bean in the center and fill with navy beans. Repeat this process first with green peas, then with yellow peas. Continue until all sections at the top are covered. Let dry. Make a 1" deep hole at the bottom of the ball and glue the cinnamon stick into it. Glue black beans over lines to form sections then glue different types of beans and peas in each section as you did on the top half of the ball. Glue the cinnamon stick into the hole in the clay pot. Allow to dry. Glue moss around the base of the cinnamon stick to cover foam. Tie raffia bow around cinnamon stick at bottom of ball and trim tails to about 4".

INDIAN SEED BRACELET

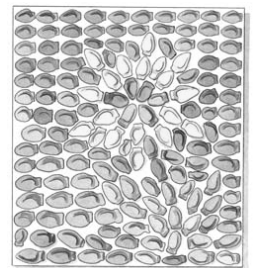
What you need: discarded tubes from toilet paper (or paper towels), pinto beans, lima beans, turquoise paint, silver colored paint, glue

Directions: Cut tubes into 3 or 4 inch sections. Cut an opening to enable tube to fit over wrist after completion of project. Paint cardboard tube section with silver paint. Paint beans turquoise. After tube and beans are dry, glue beans on tube to create an Indian bracelet.

MOSAIC WORK OF ART

What You Need: Pumpkin Seeds (clean & dry), Tempera paint (dark colors) Paint brush, Shallow container, Thick paper (poster board), Glue, Pencils, Wax paper or newspaper

What You Do: Put the seeds into a shallow dish, squirt some paint on the seeds and mix the paint around until all seeds are covered in paint. Spread the seeds out on wax paper (or newspaper) and let dry. Draw a picture onto the poster paper. Remind girls to keep it simple, remember, they will be "coloring in" with seeds. When the seeds are dry, they can be arranged and glued onto the



poster paper in the appropriate areas. Note: you can always use dried beans, lentils, popcorn or other types of seeds for this project ... you don't need to use pumpkin seeds. In fact, if you use dried beans, you can leave them in their natural colorful state (black eyed peas, red kidney beans etc).

ACTIVITY #3

Gardeners use different plant parts to make more plants. Grow your own greenery from one of the items below.

MR. POTATO HEAD

You will need: Half a sweet potato, grass seed, cotton or wool, pot to place potato in
Instructions: Cut a potato in half. Scoop out the middle and replace with cotton or wool. Dampen the cotton or wool. Sprinkle on seed it will grow very quickly!

GARBAGE HOUSEPLANTS

You will need: seeds saved from oranges, lemons, apples, pumpkins, avocados or grapefruits, clean and dry yogurt cups, potting soil

Directions: Allow the seed to dry out for a few days by laying them out on a paper towel. Fill containers $\frac{3}{4}$ full with potting soil. Plant seeds near the top. Set on a sunny windowsill. Water every day and watch as your little tree grows.

Note: Depending on your level of commitment, you'll need to periodically re-pot the avocado or orange seed tree.

ACTIVITY #4

Pick one fruit and vegetable from another country that you have never tasted and use it in a recipe! Enjoy!

Greece - Cucumber with yogurt sauce

1 Cup plain yogurt

1 cucumber chopped

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon crushed garlic

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon dill weed

Marinate in refrigerator. Serve with gyros recipe above or as a vegetable dip.

Mexico - Guacamole

2 avocados

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1/2 chopped tomato or desired amount of salsa

1/4 teaspoon salt

$\frac{1}{4}$ Cup sour cream, if desired. Mash avocados and add remaining ingredients. Serve with tortilla chips.

Mexico - Salsa

Cut up tomatoes diced

Onions however much you want

One can mild green chilies

1-2 Garlic cloves, according to taste

Salt to taste

Use as much ingredients as desired and taste as you go for a quick Mexican cooking salsa.

Algerian Cooked Carrot Salad Categories

1 pound Carrots, 3 each Garlic cloves, chopped, 1 pinch Salt, 1 pinch Sugar,

Lemon Juice, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon Cayenne pepper, $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon Cumin, Parsley (chopped),

Directions: Scrape the carrots and quarter lengthwise. Cook in a little water with garlic and a pinch of salt and sugar, for 15 minutes. Drain and chill. Just before serving, cover with lemon juice, about $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt, cayenne and cumin.

Sprinkle with chopped parsley.

South Pacific Islands - Tropical Fruit Sensation

Ingredients: 1 mango (or $\frac{1}{2}$ cup canned pineapple chunks), 2 bananas, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup shredded coconut

Peel the mango and bananas - cut into bite size pieces and place in a medium size bowl. Add the shredded coconut and stir well with a spoon. Scoop into individual bowls and eat. Serves 4

Caribbean Grapes recipe

1 1/2 pounds black grapes

8 ounces sour cream

2 tablespoons granulated sugar

$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ground cinnamon

$\frac{1}{3}$ cup chopped toasted almonds

Remove and discard grape stems. Wash grapes; drain and pat dry with paper towels.

Cut grapes in half; remove and discard seeds; set grape halves aside.

Combine sour cream and next 3 ingredients; stir until sugar dissolves.

To serve, spoon sour cream mixture over grape halves, and sprinkle with chopped almonds. Yields 6 servings.

ACTIVITY #5 – “BUG TREATS”

ANTS-ON-A-LOG

Slice stalks of celery, and spread peanut butter in the groove. Sprinkle with black raisins. Variations: aphids-on-a-log (sunflower seeds), gnats-on-a-log (currents).

ANT TREATS

Use cinnamon twists (glazed donut-like pastries formed into the number eight) as the insect body, stick bendable plastic straws in the sides (three on each side) to be the legs, and they should look like giant ants. Use 'donut holes' for ant eggs.

BEE BREAD

1 cup corn syrup, $1\frac{1}{4}$ cup powdered sugar, 1 cup peanut butter, $1\frac{1}{4}$ cup powdered milk
Combine ingredients, then roll into 1-2" balls, then roll the balls in powdered sugar to keep them from sticking together.

FLY-IN-THE-BATTER DESSERTS

Fly-in-the-batter cookies: Make chocolate chip or oatmeal cookies, adding raisins (flies) or chocolate sprinkles (gnats).

Fly-in-the-batter pudding: Vanilla pudding with raisins.

Cow Pies: Chocolate pudding with slivered almonds or coconut sprinkles (maggots).

BUG BLOOD or BUG JUICE

Mix a yellow drink (citrus pop or lemonade) with a blue one (kool-aid). You'll end up with a radioactive shade of green.

BUTTERFLY SNACKS

Use pretzels as butterfly wing frames, and stick them together with softened caramel candy or peanut butter. Sprinkle chocolate chips on top.

CHOCOLATE PRETZEL SPIDER

Stick two oreo cookies together with chocolate frosting. Make 8 curved legs by breaking bow-tied pretzels, and attach them around the middle of the spider by sticking them into the chocolate frosting. Use M & M's for eyes on the front, 'glued' with frosting. As a variation, use sandwich crackers, instead of sandwich cookies, stuck together with peanut butter.

"DIRT" CAKE

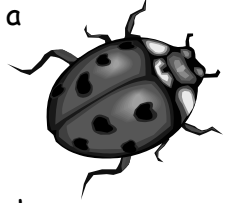
1 20-oz. pkg. chocolate sandwich cookies, crushed, $\frac{1}{2}$ stick margarine, 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese. 1 cup powdered sugar, $3\frac{1}{2}$ c. milk, 2 pkg. instant chocolate pudding
1 12-oz. tub whipped topping, $\frac{1}{4}$ c. mini marshmallows (for "beetle grubs"), 1 plastic flower pot, 1 plastic flower, plastic ants/beetles, gummy worms

Cream margarine, sugar, cream cheese. In another bowl mix milk and pudding. Let sit until thick. Stir in cool whip, mix with cream cheese mixture. Make sure pot holes are plugged. Put $\frac{1}{3}$ of cookie crumbs in bottom of pot. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ of cream cheese mixture. Repeat cookie crumbs and cream cheese mixture, adding some gummy worms and the mini marshmallows. Add extra crumbs on top (to look like dirt). Refrigerate over night. Add flower(s), plastic bugs, and the rest of the gummy worms on top. Use a trowel to serve.

ACTIVITY #6

An Insect's Senses

Many insects use their antennae to feel their surroundings. How do they do it? Have each girl choose a partner. One partner blindfolds the other and hands that person two straws. Then the partner without the blindfold places an object on a table (for example, a book, a box of tissue, or a thermos). The blindfolded partner must try to use the straw "feelers" to determine what the object is.



How many Insects

Divide the troop/group into two groups. Challenge each group to work together to create a list of insects---as many as they can name in five minutes. Then bring the groups together. Create a group list. Which group seemed to come up with the largest number of uncommon insects?

Mosquito Song - sung to Frere Jacque

Lyrics

Girls Gestures

Larva or Wiggler

Larva or Wiggler

In the Water

In the Water

girls make waves with their hands in a swimming motion.

Wiggle, Wiggle, Wiggle

Wiggle, Wiggle, Wiggle

Up and Down

Up and Down

girls wiggle - up and down.

Pupa or Tumbler

Pupa or Tumbler

In the Water

In the Water

girls make waves with their hands in a swimming motion.

Rolling, Rolling, Rolling

Rolling, Rolling, Rolling

All Around

All Around

girls roll with head tucked.

Adult Mosquito

Adult Mosquito

In the Air

In the Air

girls point to a mosquito flying

Flying, Flying, Flying

Flying, Flying, Flying

Biting Me

Biting Me

girls swat mosquitoes as if they are being bitten

ACTIVITY #7

Safari Hunt

Using magazines or animal books, go on a "world safari". Find the names of animals that:

- * Have a thick fur coat for a cold climate
- * Have long fingers for grasping branches
- * Have bright colors for attracting a mate
- * Have long legs for wading
- * Have a dark color for living in shadows
- * Have a tongue that reaches in hard-to-get places
- * Have big ears that help to cool their blood in hot climates
- * Are able to change colors for camouflage

Wild Thing

After consulting various animal books, girls will create their own wild thing out of different animal features. Girls will give their wild thing a name. Also, they will record his/her favorite color and food.

Here are some questions that must be answered:

What is the name of your animal?

Tell the class some general information about this animal, (eating habits, hunting skills, breeding habits, etc.)

What region does this animal come from?

Is this animal now extinct, threatened, or endangered?

What are some ways that this animal can be helped.

Be creative. Now, draw or paint a picture of your "wild thing"!

Endangered Animals

Raise awareness in your troop/group, school, church, community about the need to help our endangered animals. Research what needs to be done and what you can do to help.

1. Find out what animals are on the endangered animal list
2. Create posters of these animals and put them up in your community
3. Write letters to US Congressmen asking for their help in this country
4. Make a plan to conserve our natural resources to help the endangered animals.



ACTIVITY #8 -ANIMAL WORD SEARCH

Find and circle all of the animals that are hidden in the grid.

A K Y E K N O D P M B I S O N E F O X
T E W I P R B E A R O T A G I L L A T
O S W A I A L V U L T U R E N A W S U
R I U C H I N C H I L L A M A G G P O
T H C M C T W T B B N R E E D N I E R
O S A A A N O O H A A E L K T I P A T
I I N R M T E R O E R B V A C T O C R
S F E W E O O N R D R R O A W H T O N
E Y A C A T O P I A P G A O R G T C E
V L G O D C S S O R P E R C N I E K R
O L L B O C A M E P E C C H U N R O W
D E E R W A O M A Z P V S K R D A L J
N J S A L M O N N H D I L E E D A I A
O O L G A E C A F R F O H O R R D O C
O K I U R L P E A D H P T U W M I N K
C C A O K M R P R T O I N N O R E H A
C E U C I R O O O G G N Y E K R U T L
A G Q H E E W L I E E K R A V D R A A
R L C T L S S E R R P O R C U P I N E

AARDVARK
ALLIGATOR
BABOON
BARRACUDA
BEAR
BISON
CAMEL
CHIMPANZEE
CHINCHILLA
COBRA
COUGAR
CROW

DONKEY
DOVE
EAGLE
ELK
FERRET
FOX
GECKO
GOAT
GOPHER

HAMSTER
HAWK
HERON

HIPPOPOTAMUS
JACKAL
JELLYFISH
KIWI
LEOPARD
LION
LLAMA
MACAW
MEADOWLARK
MINK
MOOSE
NIGHTINGALE

OTTER
PANTHER
PARROT
PEACOCK
PELICAN

PIG
PORCUPINE
QUAIL
RACCOON
RAVEN
REINDEER
ROADRUNNER

SALMON
SLOTH
SWAN
SWORDFISH
TIGER
TORTOISE
TROUT
TURKEY
VULTURE
WOLVERINE
WOODPECKER
WREN

