



Meeting 3

Friend of Nature



Here are three fun ways that you can help Sunbeams explore nature. Adapt them to meet the needs of your Sunbeams or create your own activities.





The following activities partially fulfill the requirement for My World III: The World of Nature, which is to complete the Friend of Nature award. See the Sunbeam Activity Book for accompanying worksheet(s).

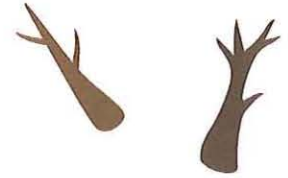
ACTIVITY

1

Twig Frame

15

MINUTES



MATERIALS NEEDED

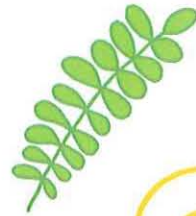
- Twigs
- Cardboard
- Craft glue
- Twine or string
- Safety scissors
- Photo of each Sunbeam, 4 × 6 in (10 × 15 cm)

WHAT YOU DO

Ahead of time: For each photo frame cut a piece of cardboard slightly larger than the photo. You'll want approximately a 0.5 in (1 cm) border for the photo. Gather twigs.

Begin with a brief talk about trees and how they help the planet (cleaning and cooling the air, providing homes for animals and birds). Then have the Sunbeams select twigs for their frame. They will want three or four twigs for each side of the frame. Now have them glue their photo in the center of the cardboard. Next they will need to break the twigs so they are a little longer than the cardboard. Have the children make a bundle of sticks by wrapping and knotting the string around each end of their twig bundles. Some children may need an adult's help to tie the twig bundles. Last, put glue on the cardboard and attach the twig bundles. Dry flat.





24-hour Terrarium

15

MINUTES

WHAT YOU DO

Ahead of time: Wash and dry the glass containers. Paint the gravel, pebbles, or marbles with glow-in-the-dark polish or paint. Cut the nylon or cheese cloth so it will fit across the bottom of the glass container. (The nylon/cheese cloth will act as a barrier to prevent the soil from clogging the plants' drainage system.)

Explain an ecosystem (a part of nature that can create its own water, food, and air) to the Sunbeams and tell them they are going to make an ecosystem in a terrarium.

Steps for making the terrarium:

1. Place a handful of gravel, pebbles, or marbles in their glass jar.
2. Put the nylon/cheese cloth onto the gravel, pebbles, or marbles.
3. Add potting soil to fill the glass container about one quarter full (generally 1-2 cups or 128-256 grams).
4. Plant the plants about 2 in (5 cm) apart.
5. Place painted stones in the glass container.
6. Attach glow-in-the-dark stickers along the top inside edge of the glass container.
7. Add just enough water to the container to make the soil damp.
8. Use a rubber band to attach plastic wrap to the opening of the container.
9. Take terrarium home and place in a sunny spot.

2 ACTIVITY

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Clear glass containers (large enough for kids to put their hand in)
- Light colored stones
- Glow-in-the-dark fingernail polish or paint
- Gravel, pebbles, or marbles
- Nylon stockings or cheese cloth, big enough to cover the bottom of the glass container
- Potting soil
- Glow-in-the-dark stickers
- Small plants (ferns work well)
- Water
- Clear plastic wrap
- Large rubber bands



ACTIVITY

3

Nature Found Objects Box

15
MINUTES

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Found nature objects such as pine cones, small rocks, shells, seed pods, feathers, leaves, flowers, bark, moss
- Boxes: shoe boxes, cake boxes, or any box with a lid works well (if you use a box with print on it, wrap the box in plain white paper)
- Craft glue

WHAT YOU DO

Ahead of time: Before the club meeting, if possible, have the parents/guardians take the children for a nature walk to find the objects to use for this craft. If this is not possible, you should bring in the nature objects.

Tell the children that they are going to make a box where they can keep things they find in nature. Show the children a box that you made. Have the children cover the box with the found nature objects. For objects that don't work well on the outside of the box, let them place them inside of the box.



Award: Friend of Nature

To complete this award, check the requirements on p. 131 and add activities as needed.



Requirement: My World III