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LiveAbout uses cookies to give you a great user experience. By using the LiveAbout Service, you consent to the use of cookies. Autumn seems to fill people with creative energy. Change the weather, the upcoming holidays, and especially get back to school all just children, in particular, eager to get busy. Playing outdoors in autumn weather is an obvious thing, so getting used to homework again. But sometimes kids have back-to-school activities that have some structure but are not part of their homework. The activities below are a great way to give kids something else to do, either at home or at school. Some take them into the autumn weather, while others employ them on stormy days when no one wants to go out. Try the back-to-school activities below to change the pace: School bus game This back-to-school game is a good icebreaker for groups of kids. True or false games strengthen your knowledge of the US with this fast-paced rhythm game. Mud Madness Kids who like to build – and those who like to get dirty – will enjoy this back-to-school activity. Rainwater Blues You will enjoy doing this experiment, but you may not like what you learn about the air you breathe! See Safely Learn a safe way to view and enjoy the next solar eclipse. Ups and downs Depending on where you live and the season, your weather chart can have as many ups and downs as a roller coaster. Autumn Treasure Box Paint a nice box to keep and view the natural treasures you will find in autumn. Twig Collection Collect twigs and use them to identify trees near you. Nature Scavenger Hunt This is a different kind of skin and search – looking for common natural objects will test your observational abilities! Nature's Orchestra Be a different kind of drummer and try to use only natural objects that you find yourself in. Trail Signs See if you can mark a clear track for your friends using only objects from nature. Leaf Litter Find out what's right under your feet by examining layers of leaves in your own yard. Leave it to nature To clean up in the autumn green way - learn about composting. Duck Bread Distribution Make your neighborhood ducks happy by sharing some of your supplements with them. Get bikes turning on your back-to-school activities with school bus game on the next page. For more fun back-to-school activities, check out: Content This is one exciting bus ride! The school bus game is a great back-to-school activity. What you need: Play this game at home or school. Advertising step 1: To set up the game, put chairs in rows, as on the bus. Step 2: Write the names of all players on sheets of paper, and put them on the table across the room from the chairs. Step 3: One player is a school bus driver. She or he says, the school bus is here. Let's all be on time. Pick up your tickets so we can be at school by 9:00. Step 4: After being told, other players are running on find a ticket with their name on it. Step 5: If they find him, he runs to the bus and sat down. Whoever stays can't take the bus. Step 6: Play the game over and over and keep score for perfect school bus attendance. Step 7: The first person to achieve a perfect score of 5 (for 5 school days a week) gets the bus driver for the next round. For a back-to-school game that will test your brain's power, try out the truth or lies of the game on the next page. For more fun back-to-school activities, check out: The truth or lies game invites your friends to play trivia about the country. What You'll Need: Pre-written true and false facts about America How much do you and your friends really know about the United States? Play this truth or lie game and find out. Advertising Step 1: The leader of the game must write a list of facts about America. For example: There are 50 states in America. Native Americans were the first people to live in this country. The first US president was George Washington. Step 2: The leader should also write a list of lies about America. For example: France is the name of an American state. Each president has two vice presidents. Step 3: When a leader has a list of about 20 facts and lies, the game is ready to begin. The Führer is quick to call the facts from the lists. It's good when a leader can call facts in a kind of rhythm, like rap. Step 4: Players respond by clapping in rhythm three times if the statement is true, and not at all if the statement is false. Keep the pace alive. Step 5: Anyone who applauds at the wrong time is out, and the last left is the leader next time. For a different kind of back-to-school activity, see the next page for Mud Madness! For more fun back-to-school activities, check out: Here's the mud in your eye! Get muddy is the name of the game when it comes to building with mud. Try this fun activity back to school. What you'll need: StickSoilFlourWaterDull knife When you were younger, you probably loved to make mud cakes. But now you can do more with mud than make a sloppy blob of saliva. Advertising step 1: Using a stick, mix some soil, flour and water until it is stiff and looks like dough. Step 2: Now shape this mixture into a large rectangle (about three feet by two feet - about as big as a sofa cushion) and let it dry until it is firm. Step 3: Once ready, have an adult cut large bricks into small bricks with a blunt knife. Step 4: You can use these bricks to build what you can imagine - buildings, cities, space stations or something completely different. What muddy masterpiece can you create? Switch from construction to science on the next page, with Rainwater Blues! For more fun back-to-school activities, check out: How clean is the air you breathe? The rain will help you figure it out. Try this activity back to school. What you'll need: Clean pan or jarCoffee filterSecond jar or cup if you've ever What particles slip inside the body from the air you breathe or the water you drink is an interesting way to find out. Ad Step 1: Place a clean container or pan in an open area just as it starts raining. Step 2: Collect as much rain as you can for the first hour of the storm. Step 3: Now collect the rainwater and carefully pour it through a clean coffee filter and catch the water in a second container or cup. Step 4: Peel the coffee filter and see what rain has washed out of your atmosphere. You can look at breathing in a new way after checking the next page. For more fun back-to-school activities, check out: Solar eclipse is a rare event that everyone wants to see, but looking at the sun is dangerous. Make and use this eclipse viewer instead, using these guidelines for great back-to-school activities. What you need: Two pieces of cardboardPin or nail in the hole solar eclipse happens when the moon comes between the Earth and the sun. The moon blocks the sun and the Earth darkens during the day. But in fact looking at an eclipse - or looking at the sun on any day - can cause blindness because sunlight is so strong. Here's how to create a browser that lets you see the eclipse safely. Advertising Step 1: Get two pieces of cardboard, each about the size of a piece of laptop paper or a little smaller. Step 2: Poke a small hole in the middle of one piece of cardboard. Step 3: At the time of the eclipse, hold a piece with a hole up to the sun, with a second piece of cardboard under it, as shown. Step 4: Look at the second piece of cardboard. An image of the eclipse will be projected on to it. You should see a circle with a bite brought out of it; bite is the shadow of the moon from the sun. For more fun science extracurricular activity, visit the Ups and Downs page. For more fun back-to-school activities, check out: This back-to-school activity will show you how to track temperature changes as well as meteorologists do. What you need: Step 1: Put the thermometer outside - from the sun - and check it at the same time every day. Advertising Step 2: Record daytime temperatures. Step 3: Create a temperature data chart like the one in the picture. Step 4: Every week or so, connect the dots in the chart to make a line showing temperature ups and downs. Which day was the coldest? Which was the warmest? What trend do you see over time? Is it colder or warmer? To appreciate the beauty of back-to-school season, try making an autumn treasury on the next page. For more fun back-to-school activities, check out: View nature's treasures with this back-to-school activity! What you need: Clear plastic benejepsice with separate compartments and clear lidAcrylic paintPaintbrushPebblesSuded seed berriesAuld berriesAssociated with natural treasures Step 1: With different colors lightly paint the squares of each compartment of a plastic utility box and Party. Advertising Step 2: While you are waiting for the paint to dry out, go for a walk in nature and collect small treasures to keep in each bin. Look for unusual pebbles, seeds and dried berries or leaves. Try to get an assortment of shapes and colors. Step 3: Then arrange your treasures in a painted box in a nice display. Step 4: Set the box on the windowsill so that the light can shine through. The color of the box will look like stained glass. Another fun collection that will start in the fall is the twig collection. Learn how on the next page. For more fun back-to-school activities, check it out: Use this back-to-school activity to make a collection of twigs collected from trees in winter. What you need: Plant shearsIndex cardsTapePencilTree identification bookUsable glassPass punching or ribbon Twigs of each type of tree have unique shapes and properties. You can collect an assortment of winter tree twigs, record different properties and compare and sort them. If you have a good twig or tree identification list, you can even identify the trees from which they originate using the images in the book. Advertising The best time to collect twigs is in February or March, long after the trees have lost their leaves, but before they began to scourge. Get permission for the following events! Step 1: Carefully cut the twigs from different trees one twig from each tree. Step 2: Tape the twigs on the index card. Step 3: Write down the color and structure of the twig (these can change as the twig dries out). Also note the name of the tree if you know it. Step 4: Study the different characteristics of twigs using a magnifying glass and compare them. Twigs parts include: terminal bud - called bud on our diagram - it will become a new growthBud scales to protect new leaves or flowersA surfaces, showing where the stems of old leaves were attachedBud scale scars that show where last year's buds were and how many twigs grew during the yearBundle scars that show where the sap flowed into the leavesLenticles, small holes or holes through which the bark breathesPith , twig center Step 5 : Create your own tree brochure: Use a puncher to make two holes in the left side of each index card and tie the cards together with a string or ribbon. Another way to take advantage of the back-to-school season is to play nature's Scavenger Hunt on the next page. For more fun back-to-school activities, check out: As you explore nature with this back-to-school activity, be careful not to disturb any plants or animals. What you need: Step 1: Make a list of things you might find in nature near you. All should be things that nature pours, such as dropped leaves and seminal pods, feathers, small stones, etc. So you won't take the things nature still needs! Ad Step 2: Make a copy of the list for each person who wants to join the treasure hunt. Step 3: Then set off, alone or in pairs, to find everything on the list. You can even have a race to see who finds the objects first! Another way to have nature search for treasure is to find things in nature, but not to touch them or bring them home. When you play this way, just mark every thing on your list to find it. This activity is a good way to collect natural objects for other activities. For example, you could look for pine cones to create creatures from pine cones, feathers to form quill feathers, interesting leaves for leaf stencils, shells for the art of shells, etc. One activity you can use some objects for the Nature Orchestra. Learn how on the next page. For more fun back-to-school activities, check it out: You and your friends can establish a band with these musical instruments made of natural materials. Try this festive event back to school. What you need: Remember: During this project, do not harm live plants or disturb animals in their habitats. Step 1: With a group of friends collect stones, gravel, sand, sticks, shells, and anything else from nature that you can use to make musical instruments. Use your imagination! Step 2: Put the stones in the sheets to shake. Use the sticks as sticks. Maybe you can make a drum out of a hollow trunk or a bark. Step 3: See if you and your friends can make beautiful music together. After the concert, you can try to make some trail signs for your friends to see if they can follow them. You can find ideas on the next page. For more fun back-to-school activities, check it out: Early pioneers and explorers marked the path for others to follow. Try to do the same. What you'll need: Whenever people moved across new territory, they marked the trail so they wouldn't get lost. Native Americans often bent trees to the ground to mark trails. Some of these trail trees have grown into full-sized trees. The first explorers and explorers used axes on trees. Outdoor youth clubs now use temporary stamps of twigs, grass and stones borrowed from Native Americans. Step 1: To play the trail marking game, have one person lay a cross-country trail through a forest or open field. A person should make a trail marker twenty or so steps apart. (Be careful not to damage any living plants when doing your marks.) Arrows, stacks of stones or bundles of grass say, I went this way. Bend in a grassy bundle or rock next to the pile means to turn in this direction. Three of anything means a warning. And X means don't go this way. The circle means this is the end of the trail. You can use the images on this help page or come up with some of your own. Step 2: The rest of the players try to follow the trail and find out where the person ended up. Another fun outdoor activity in the fall explores life underfoot! Learn how to take a leaf litter on the next page. For more fun back-to-school activities, check out: Discover organisms that turn fallen leaves into good soil. Use this cool back-to-school to explore the ground beneath your feet. What What What Need: Garden glovesSound glass Step 1: Find a place in the forest where the leaves accumulate. Look away from trampled roads or under large bushes. Step 2: Slide the surface layer of the leaves aside. Under it you will find fragmented leaves. Underneath, the remains of the leaves look like soil. How do leaves become soil? Bacteria and fungi rot leaves, but also get help from larger organisms. Step 3: Use the magnifying glass to look at each layer of bedding. What do you see? In the upper layers you can find beetles that eat dead leaves. In moist areas, centipedes break leaves into small pieces that bacteria and fungi work. In the deep layers, spiders, centipedes and springtails eat pieces of leaves that break down from the weather or are divided by larger errors. In the low layers near the soil earthworms eat soil and decomposing leaves. As you take care of excess leaves in your yard this fall, research and make sure you are utilizing all the recycling programs in your area. See how on the next page. For more fun back-to-school activities, check out: Fall into the composting community. This is a great activity back to school for school or at home. What you need: RakeGarbage bagsTelephone After raking and bag sheets, it's time to pick up the phone. Step 1: Call your local authority and ask if they have a community compost location. Step 2: If so, talk mom and dad into loading leaves into your family car instead of trash collecting a barrel. Step 3: Bring your compost to the community site and leave it there – allowing nature to break organic material and keep garbage dumps free for other disposables. Help the ducks prepare for winter too. For more information, see the next page. For more fun back-to-school activities, check out: Quack, the charlatan, give something back with this great back-to-school activity. What you'll need: Old stale bread and cereal productsWild ducks How often have you watched your parents throw away stale or moldy bread and cereals? Well, stop looking and start pulling it out. There are hungry ducks to feed! Step 1: Take those old edibles to the park or duck pond (or wherever your local wild duck hangs out) and give the poultry a feast. Step 2: Be sure to throw the boxes and wrappers away before you leave. For more fun back-to-school activities, check out: School bus games by Lisa Lerner and Kersten Hamilton true or false games by Lisa Lerner and Kersten Hamilton Mud Madness by Maria Birmingham, Karen E. Bledsoe, and Kelly Milner Halls Rainwater Blues by Maria Birmingham, Karen E. Bledsoe, and Kelly Milner Halls See It Safely Lisa Lerner and Kersten Hamilton Ups and Downs Lisa Lerner and Kersten Hamilton Autumn Treasure Box Lisa Lerner and Kersten Hamilton Nature Scavenger Hunt Lisa Lerner and Kersten Hamilton Nature Orchestra Lisa Lerner and Kersten Hamilton Trail Signs Lisa Lerner and Kersten Hamilton Leaf Litter by Contributing Writers Maria Karen E. Bledsoe, a Kelly Milner Sály Nechte to na přírodu tím, že přispívá spisovatelé Maria Birmingham, Karen E. Bledsoe, a Kelly Milner Halls Duck Bread Distribuce přispívá spisovatelé Maria Birmingham, Karen E. Bledsoe, a Kelly Milner Halls Halls

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