

# Young Naturalist

An Activity Guide



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# Foreword



**Government of Nepal  
Ministry of Education  
Curriculum Development Centre**

Ref



## Foreword

Natural Resources form the foundation of Nepal's development and we must utilize them in a sustainable way. We must give priority to how we educate our children to value our natural heritage. For Curriculum Development Center, Environment Education is one of the most important subjects. We are happy that Nepal Prakriti Pathshala, an initiative of Wildlife Conservation Nepal and Danish Forestry Extension has been contributing to strengthen Environment Education in Nepal. Its approach that integrates hands-on experience methods with classroom teaching is innovative.

We appreciate the efforts of Nepal Prakriti Pathshala to bring out this series of teacher guides, tested by environment science teachers around Nepal, which complement the government's curriculum in Environment Science and also help the students to become more aware of their environment.

I am certain that this manual **Young Naturalist - An Activity Guide** will help teachers in instigating children not only to care for the environment but also learn different methods in which they can be a part of solution for local environmental problems. I hope this will help motivate the teachers and the students together to be agents of change in the society.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diwakar Dhungel".

Diwakar Dhungel  
Executive Director

**Diwakar Dhungel**  
Executive Director

# *Message to the teacher*

Environment or Nature Education in Class often gets very limiting. Both teachers and students feel the need to add some more to the lessons prescribed in the text books, but time and resource constraints become challenges. **“Young Naturalist -An Activity Guide”** has been specially designed for teachers of grades 5-10 to provide them with tools to conduct nature classes inexpensively and make their students explore the natural world and begin to understand how each of us play a significant role in defining it. These lessons encourage students to utilize observation skills, problem-solving skills and analytical thinking.

We hope that this Guide will help teachers and children to bring positive changes in their surrounding environment and be amazed by nature. This manual has been tested and improved by Nepal Prakriti Pathshala (NPP) over many sessions with Teachers, Nature Interpreters and Environment Educators of Nepal and Denmark. NPP is a joint program of Wildlife Conservation Nepal and Danish Forestry Extension that is continuously working to make environment education more fun, hands-on and outdoor based in Nepal in order to inculcate the values of sustainable living and conservation.

Please help us improve this guide by providing us with constructive suggestions. We look forward to making environment education more effective with your help and support.

Nepal Prakriti Pathshala Team

# Content

<b>1. learning about Birds - Bird Watching</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Creating fun bird feeders</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. learning about Plants with medicinal value and making tasty treats</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4. Arts: Collage</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>5. Case Study/Research</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>6. Photography</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>7. News Reporting</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>8. Reusing Paper creatively</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>9. Creating fun animals</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>10. Nature Diary of a Naturalist</b>	<b>28</b>

# I. learning about Birds - Bird Watching

## Something About Birds:

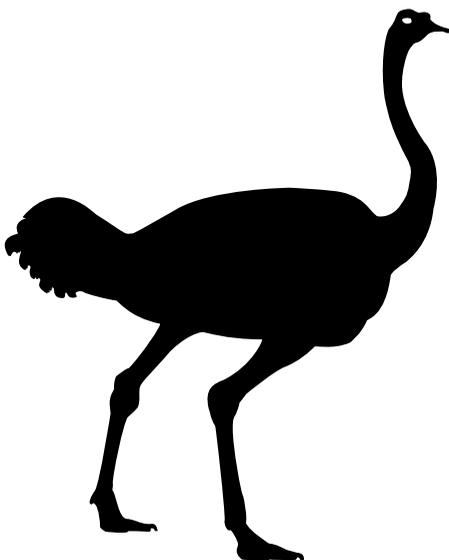
Birds are one of the most fascinating creatures on earth. They have feathers and hollow bones which help them fly. The fossil record indicates that birds emerged on earth around 150 million years ago. There are around 10000 different species of birds worldwide and in Nepal there are about 871 species of birds. Spiny Babbler is an indigenous bird of Nepal.

Poultry birds like chicken, ducks, turkeys, geese are an important part of our lives.



## Some Interesting facts about Birds:

- Predator birds are specialised in hunting other animals. For example eagles hunt rabbits, mice and sometimes even big animals like deer. Birds like vultures on the other hand are specialized scavengers. They eat dead animals.
- The Ostrich is the largest bird in the world. It also lays the largest eggs and has the fastest maximum running speed of 97 kph.





- Many birds especially ducks and geese fly hundreds of kilometers every winter to warm places, never losing their way. Geese fly in 'V' form making a system that help each other fly easily. They also exhibit a sense of great team work, when the leading goose gets tired, they switch positions and while flying, the group even honks to encourage those in front to maintain speed.

- Hummingbirds are special birds because they can fly backwards. Bee Hummingbird is the smallest living bird in the world, with a length of just 5 cm (2 inch). Hummingbirds can flash their bright colors, as well as hide them when needed. Hummingbirds can see and hear better than humans. But they cannot smell things. They feed on nectar from the flowers and use their tongues to lap up the nectar.



## Activity Brief

To a beginner bird watcher, identifying a common bird can be frustrating, and many people give up as soon as they begin. You see a small yellow bird in the bush, you grab your binoculars, start flipping through your field guide. Take another look at the bird.-Flip back a page or two... but the bird is gone, but don't be disappointed, you will see it again. You just need to be patient. However, there are few points to remember while bird watching.



## Requirements

1. Binoculars
2. Notebook
3. Pencil
4. Bird Identification book



## Lets see some Birds-

- a. To find a bird you should learn about the habitat each species of bird prefers. Do they like to spend their time at the top of a tree or on the ground or on a lake? You should learn the songs of the birds in your yard. Before you see a bird, you will often hear it first.
- b. Take a good field guide to identify birds. Look for clear color pictures that make it easy to recognize different birds. There are many field guides in the market. Your first guide should be one geared towards the beginner.
- c. Look at the bird. Don't fumble with a book... watch what the bird does, watch it fly away, and only then try to find it in your book." Afterwards, sketch what you see. This will enhance your skill as a keen observer.
- d. Be quiet and do not go crashing through the woods to look for birds. It lets you hear more birds and disturbs them less. However, talk in your normal voice. Shouting and whispering are both unnatural so they will alarm them further. Use your reference guide to identify birds that you see.
- e. Get permission before you start bird watching on someone else's property.
- f. Avoid wearing bright clothing or clothing that rustles.
- g. Try to go birdwatching early in the morning. Birds are more active then, and tend to call more often.

# Common birds of Nepal



Owls have large noticeable pair of eyes that have a special kind of vision- they can only see in the night and that's when they hunt. There are more than 20 species of Owls in Nepal. They like living alone.



Magpie are common omnivorous birds from the same family as the crow. They forage on the ground, eating insects, grasshoppers, crops and fruits that fall on the ground. They are threatened by urbanisation.



Kingfishers are one of the most colorful and fascinating birds in the world. They are expert fishing birds and live near water bodies. Of the 93 species in the world, 10 species are found in Nepal



Pigeons are city birds and are bred by people to find their way home from long distances away and have been used for thousands of years to carry messages.



Sparrows are one of the most common birds, usually found living near humans, near rice & crop fields. They like spending time in mud. Once abundant, sparrows are becoming rarer due to urbanisation.



Common Mynas are sometimes considered as pests. They thrive in urban settings. They are also omnivorous. They are known for their quarreling nature.



Chicken are the most common poultry birds of the world, bred for eggs and meat. They have a distinct comb, bigger in males, usually red in color. They love living in groups.

## 2. Creating fun bird feeders



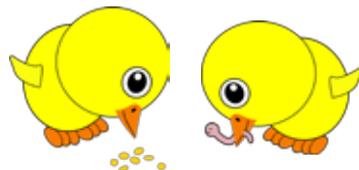
### Something About Feeding Birds

Birds eat a variety of things. Some birds may be insectivores (eating insects), frugivores (eating fruits) or nectarivores (eating nectar) while most garden birds could be feeding on seeds. Aquatic birds usually fish or feed on aquatic plants. Some hunt mice, rabbits, deer and other small animals. But humans have been feeding birds for hundreds of years. It is a wonderful pastime and helps you appreciate nature.

The first person recorded as feeding wild birds was the 6<sup>th</sup> century monk Saint Serf of Fife who tamed a pigeon by feeding it. And in the harsh winter of 1890-91 in Britain, national newspapers asked people to put out food for birds. In 1910 in the United Kingdom, Punch magazine declared that feeding birds was a “national pastime”.

To celebrate the bird feeding hobby, “February” was named National Bird-Feeding Month by congressional decree in 1994 in the US (source wikipedia.com).

This activity is about making children attract birds through establishing bird feeders and start an interaction with our feathered friends.



## Activity Brief:

Water, shrubs with berries, feeders with food and flowers attract birds. Birds like water, so placing a birdfeeder near a pond or any water body - natural or artificial is a good idea. Birds then can also have a bath and is a good way to attract them in our gardens. Planting flowers that produce seeds like Sunflower is also a good idea. Birds like natural settings, so a little untidy garden might be more welcoming for them than a very neat garden.

Though putting up a bird feeder is a good and an easy way to start out attracting birds it is important to know some tips before you start.

### **Where should you put the feeder?**

Birds would probably come to a feeder in which they feel safe, thus areas that the predators like cats may not be able to get too close might be good.

Areas that are open and noisy may not be good. Birdfeeders are usually hung but some birds feed from the ground.

Birds form habits so though it might take a while for birds to come to your feeder, once they start

coming, they will continue to do so everyday.

### **What food should you put in your feeder?**

Certain foods tend to attract certain birds. Hummingbirds, sunbirds and other nectivorous birds love nectar so putting sugar water is a good idea. Mixed seed and sunflower seed is favoured by many seed-eating species. Birds such as white-eyes, barbets, and some thrushes will take fresh and cut fruit. Garden birds can also be fed using peanuts and other seeds. Sometimes, people may feel too many birds are like pests. But we must remind ourselves that birds are friends of gardens. They eat on enemies of gardens like harmful insects, snails, slugs, aphids, etc. Therefore, it is important to remember not to use pesticides in your garden.



# Building Bird Feeders

## Requirements

### Feeder 1

1. Used Juice carton
2. Strong strings
3. Water resistant and health friendly paints and brushes
4. Small sturdy twigs

### Feeder 2

1. Used plastic nets that come with detergents, chocolates or baby items.

### Feeder 3

1. Used paper cups
2. Strong strings

### Feeder 4

1. Big Oven gloves
2. Big stick

## COMMON ITEMS

All Bird Feeders must be filled with lots of seeds like:



## FEEDER 1

1. Clean some used juice carton thoroughly.
2. Cut out a square part at the front leaving some space below where a twig can be inserted for birds to perch on
3. Punch a hole on the top of the carton cover for the string
4. Color the carton with attractive designs and fill it with seeds and hang it in a tree or the side of the house, somewhere birds can come and eat the seeds. Your bird feeder is ready!

## FEEDER 2

1. Put seeds in a net and tie it up.
2. Make sure the net has holes small enough to hold the seeds
3. Tie up the feeder in the location
4. You want and enjoy having birds over!



## FEEDER 3

1. Clean used paper cups.
2. Punch holes on both sides from where strings can be hung to balance the cups.
3. Tie up the strings together at one point so a single string can be tied and hang it with different seeds and your feeder is ready!

## FEEDER 4:

Feeder 4 is about feeding birds in your hands. This activity is to prove that birds are creatures of habit but it requires a lot of patience!



1. Put seeds in a big oven glove with a stick and place it in a window plane and wait for the birds to come to it and eat the offerings.
2. Repeat this for several days until birds visits become more frequent. Once you feel confident about your visitors you can replace the stick in the glove with your hand and there you have it!
3. Birds eating out of your HAND!

### 3. Learning about Plants with Medicinal Value and making tasty treats

#### About Plants with medicinal properties

Humans use plants in almost every aspect of life: for food, shelter, clothing, medicine, energy, decorative purpose, religious ceremonies and even in death.

Plants have been used to prevent illness since prehistoric times and even today Ayurveda is still a popular plant based branch of medicine. People from rural areas still use plants for curing various human and animal diseases.

About 80% of the modern medicines are estimated to have the primary derivative from plant in their composition. More than 50000 species are estimated in the world to have medicinal value. Aromatic plants with medicinal value are called MAPS (Medicinal Aromatic Plants).



Some common plants and their medicinal properties:

1. **Amala** – rich in Vitamine C, cures diarrhoea and dysentery.
2. **Ginger or Adhuwa**- Good for cough, asthma, digestive problems.
3. **Marmelos or Bel** - Used in cure of diabetes, diarrhoea and dysentery.
4. **Shechuan Pepper or Timur**- Used in curing cuts, stomach pain, cough and cold.
5. **Neem**- Used in curing of skin diseases.
6. **Basil or Tulsi**- For fever, dysentery, liver disorders, and vomiting
7. **Mint or Pudina**- Soothes discomfort and upset stomach
8. **Lime / Lemon**- Full of Vitamin C. cures cold and throat pain
9. **Rhododendron**- Used in wine, juice, jams, snuff made from the bark of the tree is a cold reliever. Young leaves can be processed into paste to relieve headaches.



# Activity Brief:

It is very important to be careful while cooking anything so as not to burn yourself. Supervision of the children is a must. Both the recipes given below can be done outdoors in a garden or a forest by making a small fire. The whole idea of this activity is to provide children with an experience of how plants have always been so important in our lives and also connect with nature.

## Lets get cooking!

### Treat 1: Coriander Balls (With potato or meat)

#### Requirements

1. Boiled potato
2. Chopped Coriander
3. Chopped onions & carrot
4. Salt to taste
5. Oil
6. Eggs
7. Bread Crumbs
8. If you want meat frigidella then take minced meat of your choice instead of potato



1. Mix boiled potato, chopped onions, carrots, salt and chopped coriander and make small round balls with your hands.
2. Beat an egg and dip the balls in it and roll them on breadcrumbs.
3. Heat pan with oil and fry the frigadellas until golden brown.

### Treat 2: Mint Lemonnade

#### Requirements

1. Lemon/Lime
2. Mint ( fresh from garden)
3. Water and Ice
4. Sugar



1. Boil 2-3 spoons (per glass) of sugar in a saucepan with some water until all sugar dissolves.
2. Put some finely chopped mint and squeezed lime in a glass, add sugar, pour water, stir and add some ice. Your lemonade for hot summer day is ready!!!
3. To recover from cold you can also make hot lemon. For this, pour hot water in a glass, add squeezed lemon, a spoon of honey and some small pieces of ginger.

## 4. Arts: Collage

### Something About Collage:



Collage is a piece of art created by sticking newspaper, wallpaper, printed text and illustrations, photographs, cloth, string, etc., which then connotes a meaning.

Originating from the French word “coller”, meaning “to glue”, the collage allows you to experiment with a wide range of materials to achieve amazing end results. At a first glance, the meaning of the collage may not be apparent or understood instantly but with a close look, a collage can open as a world in itself. A collage can be representation of any subject; from a “headache” to “beautiful nature” to “transformation of societies”.



A butterfly on a flower

### Activity Brief:

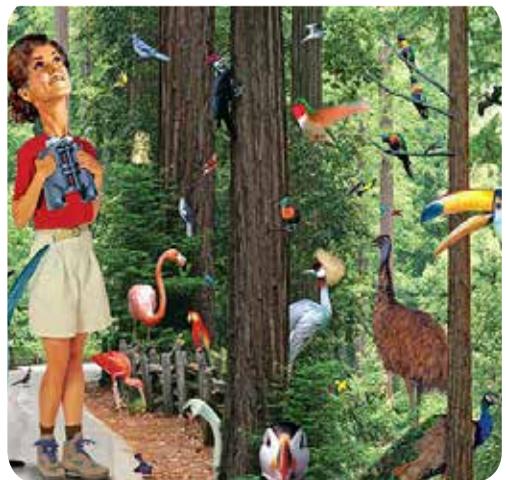
Firstly, it is important to develop a theme before you start. Children can pick up a theme, or a theme could be assigned to them. A collage must have a central idea or image to focus on.

Secondly, according to this developed idea, collection of the materials should be done. Some possible materials that you can use are tissue paper, cut-outs from magazines or newspaper, photographs, cloth, sand, leaves, etc.

# Lets make ART!

## Requirements

1. Chart paper
  2. Color paper
  3. Glue
  4. Scissors
  5. Newspapers and magazines
  6. Water color and brushes
  7. Marker pens
  8. Any other things you can find that can be stuck on the paper to make an interesting collage. For e.g. leaves, dried flowers, broken glass bangles, etc.
1. Figure out what you're going to glue the collage onto. You can use a large piece of paper, chart paper or part of a cardboard box, for instance. No matter what you choose for the base, make sure it's strong enough to hold several items pasted on it and that it will be easy to display.
  2. Assemble the pieces before you glue them. Once you have everything you want to put on your collage, spread it to design the collage before proceeding. Lay it out on a large surface like a table or floor. Build the items in layers, starting with the background and moving forward.
  3. Glue the collage. Starting with the background and working forward, glue the pieces of the collage onto the base. Use regular white glue, a glue stick or rubber cement, and work with precision.
  4. Try to arrange the collage around one central piece that you think is attractive or interesting.
  5. Remember that not every piece has to be glued flat. Try crumpling or folding to achieve a different texture.
  6. Let the collage dry. Given that the collage might contain several layers of glue, allow it ample time to dry.



## 5. Case Study/Research



### Something About Case Study:

Case studies present children with real-life problems and enable them to apply what they have learned in the classroom to real life situations. Groups of students produce a description, procedure, or method. Their solutions to the task reveal, how they are thinking about the given situation.

### Activity Brief:

Research or Case study is basically the same as 'How to evaluate a given situation.'

Please remember the following Issues:

**Topic Selection:** First and foremost, it is important to be sure that a relevant issue or topic has been selected. Teachers can help children identify one topic which affects the lives of the local people, including them.

**Analysis:** There are various kinds of analysis; one of the most common is the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) framework. This can provide a great place to start.

**Identify People:** Experts and experienced people, even local people can be the source of information.

**Synthesis (putting it all together):** Organizing information collected from the field from multiple sources must be presented in a meaningful way.

**Conclusion and Recommendation:** The summation of all findings should be expressed in conclusion. Jumping right to the recommendations is a sign that you know less about your research. You need to build up a foundation to support your recommendation.

# Research is fun!

## Requirements

1. Brochures
2. Topic on the case study
  - History
  - Flora /Fauna
  - Issues
  - Recommendations
3. Camera
4. Hand outs



## Sample of a Case Study

Title of Case Study: **Study of Chitwan National Park**

### 1. Literature Review:

- Introduction of the National Park: History, location, geography, biodiversity
- Important Flora and Fauna of the Park

### 2. Field observation-

- Current Situation of the National Park
- Environment around the Park
- Interview of different relevant officers of the park like the Warden, Rangers, Guard Posts and local communities living near the park.

### 3. Conclusion and Recommendations

### 4. References

## 6. Photography



### Something About Photography:

In this day when digital cameras have made photography so readily available and affordable, it is important we teach our children how to use this powerful tool to connect with nature.

Nature photography is one of the most important branches of photography. It connects the photographer with nature at an emotional level and sensitise them instantly about nature conservation.

The more pictures you click of nature, the closer you become to it. Thus this activity is about how to take good pictures and explore the natural world through your lenses. After taking the pictures the children can share their different photos and present stories behind each of it, because there is always a story behind each photo.

### Activity Brief:

Nature Photography is outdoors so the young photographers must be ready with sensible outdoor shoes, hats, and if it is for long hours then bag with water and light snacks to eat in the field is advised to take along.

It is also important to remember the ethics of nature photography, they are-

1. Make sure that you don't get too close to live animals even if they are your subjects.
2. Spooking or scaring animals should not be done in order to take their picture.
3. No cutting or destroying beautiful flowers should be done.

## **Eight Ways to Take Better Pictures**

### **1) Show one subject clearly**

A picture with only one subject is usually the best. To have only one subject, you can use other hints in this section to help you, such as getting close to your subject. One subject does not mean only one object at a time.

Here in Photo 1 A, there is no confusion what the subject is. It is simply a powerful Leopard.



A group of cows or a group of orchid flowers (as shown in Photo 1 B) can be one subject. Once you decided what you want your subject to be, try to leave other items out.



### **2) Get close**

Once you've decided on your subject, usually, the more you have the subject fill the screen (and leave out other things) of your camera, the better. If you think a baby is making a cute face, don't stand back and have half the picture of the chair the baby is sitting in and the rest of the baby. Instead get very close to the baby and take a picture of only its face.

In Photo 2, the photographer has zoomed in the orchid, making it fill the entire frame, making it an attractive photo.





Photo 3

### 3) Simplify the background

A photo is considered good if the subject is in focus. A busy (or many other things in the background of your subject) competes with the subject for the viewer's attention.

Look past the subject before you take the picture and try to make it plain. For example in photo 3. the photographer has used sky as the background. This way your subject will be in focus and the background will be out of focus.

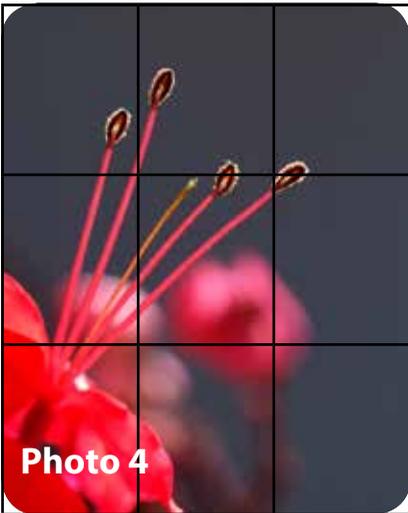


Photo 4

### 4) Place your subject Off-Center The Rule of Thirds

A subject that is placed in the center can make a picture boring and does not show movement. Try placing your subject closer to one of the four corners. The rule of thirds: Imagine your viewfinder with three lines going both vertically and horizontally across it.

Photo 4 here exhibits how it is important not to always put your subject not in the center.



Photo 5

### 5) Try a different viewpoint

Most pictures are taken from the viewpoint of your eye level. Try to change this according to your subject. If you are taking a picture of a dog or a small child, get on your knees and take the picture from their view point. A picture of a dog from where you are standing will make the dog look dwarfed. Photo 5 exhibits how trying a different view point to take a picture of a tree results in a spectacular result.



**Photo 6**

### **6) Think - Be creative**

It is important to be creative in Photography. Think of all these rules to make an interesting picture. You can see a beautiful flower and take the picture as you see it. Or you can lie on the ground and show the flower reaching the sky. Photo 6 is creative because of how the photographer has creatively shot picture of a simple fly in an interesting angle and position.



**Photo 7**

### **7) Watch the light**

Light is the single most important factor for photography. Antilight pictures make photos dark. At different times of the day, the light will give different results on the same subject. The light in the mornings and evenings are considered best for photography as shown in Photo 7. Afternoon light is usually harsh and not fit for shooting good pictures.



**Photo 8**

### **8) Experiment**

As you practice all the rules you will notice that your photographs have become better. Now that you know these simple rules, you can break the rules! Photo 8 shows how an Anti Light Photo can also look so good.

## **Requirements**

1. Digital Camera
2. LCD Projector (optional)
3. Notebook to write photo story to be shared in the class.

*Now*

*let's Shoot some pictures!*

## 7. News Reporting



### Something About News Reporting:

Media plays a very important role in our lives. In the modern world, we learn about everything from the media and newspaper is one of the strongest forms of media. Many children aspire to become a journalist and this activity allows them to become one. But it is advisable to pick a subject that is related to nature and environment, as the world is always in need of good environmental journalist.

### Activity Brief:

A dummy newspaper can be made with articles from many journalists and displayed it in class. You can also start by picking up a wonderful name for your newspaper. Remember to make Identity Cards. A journalist must always carry her or his identity card at all times because it is important not to hide ones identity.

Few important tips on how to write a news article are :

- Task: The most important thing to remember is that the task of writing a newspaper article is all about reporting facts, no matter what.
- Style: You will be writing in a different style than you are used to in class. Newspaper articles generally contain sentences and paragraphs that are short and direct. Most paragraphs in news articles contain a maximum of just three sentences.
- Bias: Newspaper articles should be written without bias. In other words, report facts objectively -don't give opinions in your news article.
- Deadline: Every newspaper has a deadline for its articles, thus this activity must also be given a deadline and the task must be completed by then.

# Writing for a Newspaper:



## Requirements

1. Magazines on Nature conservation
2. Sample Newspapers
3. Digital camera
4. Paper for news paper
5. Color paper
6. Color pens
7. Glue
8. Scissors
9. Ruler
10. Computer & printer (optional)
11. Identity Cards



## Format of Newspaper article

**Headline** - An attention capturing phrase at the top of the article.

**Byline** - By, your name.

**Lead Paragraph** - Start with a strong, interesting sentence to get the reader engaged. Include who, what, when, where, why, and how as appropriate.

**Explanation and Amplification** - This section explains the details surrounding the photograph.

**Background Information** - This will include events leading up to the picture, related national stories, etc.

**Works Cited** - You need to create a works cited list which includes at least two sources. This must be in correct format.

## 8. Reusing Paper creatively



### Something About 3Rs:

Over the years, increment in population and pollution have resulted in over use of natural resources such as forest, air, water, minerals, natural gas, etc while at the same time creating a massive amounts of waste.

**YOU CAN REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE** by practicing the Four R's are-

- 1.Reduce** (Reduce your waste and use resources like water as little as possible)
- 2.Reuse** (Reuse resources as many times as possible, for example bottle, bags etc)
- 3.Recycle** (Use a technique called Recycling to "RECYCLE" waste such as paper, aluminium can etc to use products more than once)
- 4.Rethink** (Think again about your lifestyle, is it environmentally friendly?)

Although the raw material for making paper is predominantly trees. Today in more sensitised countries, paper is made from wood grown in "sustainable" forests, where trees for paper making are grown and harvested as a long term crop with new trees planted to replace those cut down.

Papers that can be recycled are- computer print out paper, newspapers, magazines, telephone directories, pamphlets, cardboard, mixed or coloured paper, calendars and greeting cards. As the demand for paper increases, more timber are used to meet the demand for wood pulp. In some cases, this meant the loss of valuable wildlife habitats. Thus, the less use of paper helps to protect wildlife habitats as well. By using waste paper to produce, newspaper disposal problems are reduced

The items that can be made from used paper are boundless.

## Activity Brief:

An effective way of conserving resources is reusing your waste material in its current form. This activity will teach you how to make an awesome little waste paper basket out of old newspapers!

### Requirements

1. Balloon
2. Newspaper (cut into strips)
3. Fevicol
4. Tissue paper (optional)
5. Acrylic paint
6. Paint brush

## Balloon Basket!



**PICTURE 1**

- Take fevicol and mix it with water to make it into a thick solution

**REUSE**   
**REDUCE**  
**RECYCLE**  
*& Rethink*



**PICTURE 2**

- Blow up a balloon, the size of which you want to make the basket of. Start pasting the thin strips of newspaper on the balloon dipping the [paper pieces in the fevicol liquid.
- Continue pasting the paper strips till you have covered more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  the balloon starting from the bottom.
- Paste 4-5 layers newspaper pieces to make your basket more sturdy.



**PICTURE 3**

- You can also smoothen the surface of the basket by putting thin strips of tissue paper over the wet basket and patting the fevicol liquid over it with a thick paint brush
- Allow the basket to dry



**PICTURE 4**

- When the basket is dry, prick the balloon and remove it from the basket
- Cut the basket to the desired size



**PICTURE 5**

- Colour and decorate it with paint according to the way you want it.



**PICTURE 6**

**YOUR BASKET IS READY!!!**

## 9. Creating fun animals

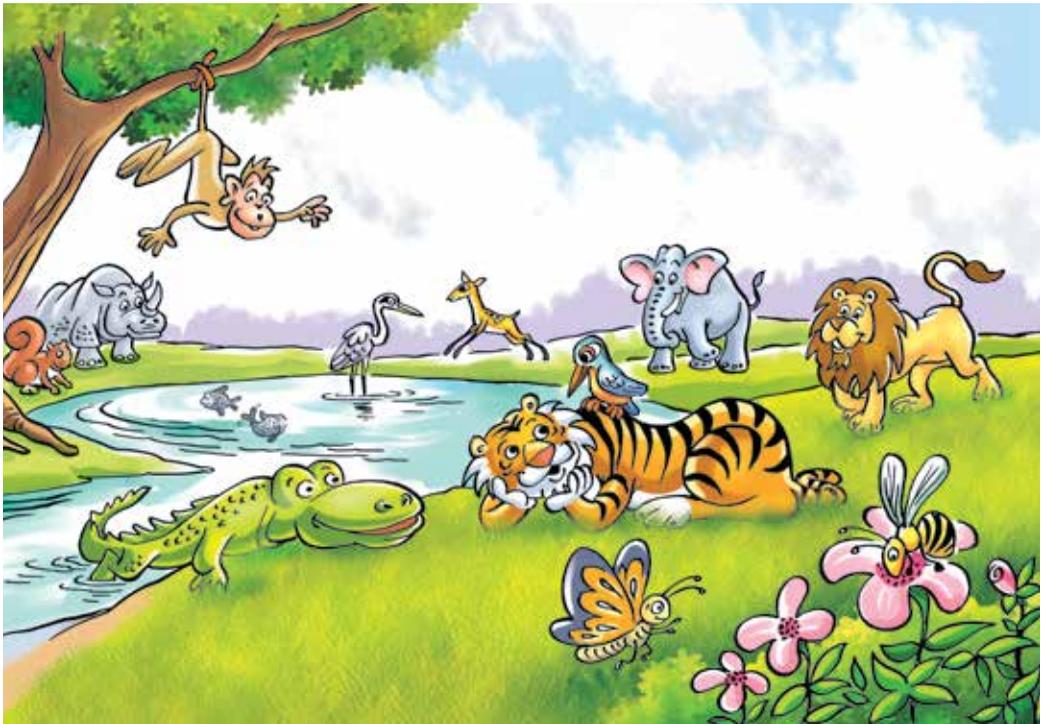
### About:

We share earth with countless beautiful creatures. They are colorful and vibrant, and the amazing thing is, even though we can't see, everyone is connected with each other. We often visit the zoo to see and learn about different animals. Everyone has a favourite animal that they like. Some like turtles, some like owl while some love tiger!

Even though, we cannot bring all our favourite animals to our house, we sure can make some from paper, stones and other materials!

### Activity Brief:

There are lots of fun ways to create your own special animal. Here children will learn these animal crafts using simple and readily available materials lying at home to get creative and have fun while exploring the wonder of animals. Make your own farm, zoo, or pet shop with these art projects.



## Requirements

1. Different colored paper
2. Acrylic paint
3. Paint brush
4. toilet paperrolls
5. Fevicol
6. Jam bottles
7. Stones
8. Colored paper

### 1. Palm Painted Animals

Get some paint in your hand and place it in a chart paper upside down and your elephant is ready. Make eye, mouth, tail with the help of the marker or you can also stick woolen threads to make them more interesting. You can cut it out and hang them or stick them with other animals that you make. You can also make a monkey the same way.



### 2. Rock Animals

To make rock animals, collect some smooth rocks from your garden or school area. Stick stones together, attach small stone figures such as eyes, feet or body parts if you want to before joining them. Start painting on the stones, draw an outline with the help of a pencil on the paper and with the help of the outline start drawing. You can either start painting your favorite animal straight on the stones or join them together to make different shapes. Explore the duck, tortoise, ladybird or a frog with the stones. You can use the rock animals as paper weight.



### 3. Toilet-roll Animals:

Collect all the used toilet paper rolls and start drawing different animals on it. You can paint it and make it more colorful, stick it together in the shoe box and make a animal world of your own. Try drawing owls, butterflies, lion as shown.



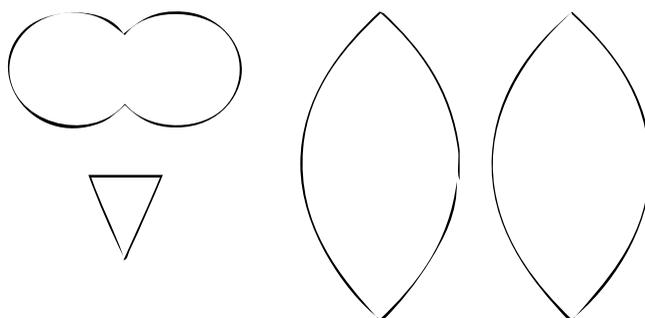
### 4. Bottle Owls

Pick a piece of fabric or colourful paper of your choice to cover up any letter that might be on the lid. Cut it into a small square large enough to cover the whole lid along with the sides.

Stick the fabric/paper to the lid using a strong glue like fevicol.

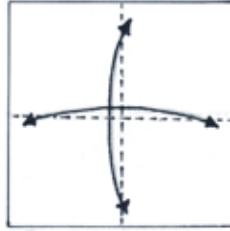
Now, using the Owl Jar Templates, cut out one piece of white chart paper (shaped like the number 8) for the eyes and an orange triangular shaped piece for the beak. Also, cut out two black eye-shaped pieces.

Stick the black eyes on the white piece. Stick the eyes and the beak on the bottle to make your owl jar.

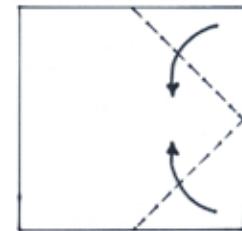


## 4. Origami Fish

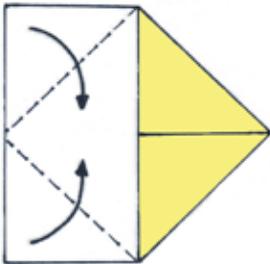
Origami is an ancient traditional Japanese paper craft. The word Origami has two parts, ori meaning “folding”, and kami meaning “paper”. The goal of origami is to transform a flat sheet of paper into a finished piece, of different things, through folding techniques.



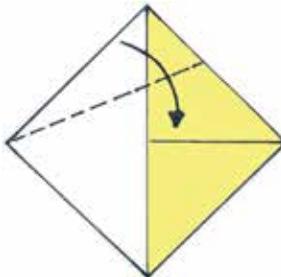
1. Fold in half twice to make crosses and unfold



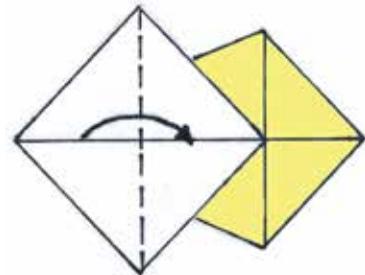
2. Fold in the dotted line



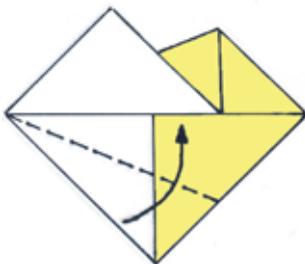
3. Fold in the dotted line



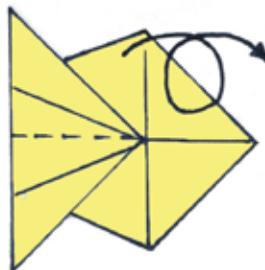
4. Fold in the dotted line



5. Fold in the dotted line



6. Fold in half



7. Turn over



8. Finished fish

## 10. Nature Diary of a Naturalist

### About Nature Journaling:

Nature is full of wonderful things, from plants that are medicinal to poisonous, from majestic animals that roam the earth to those that swim in the oceans. It has been studied, documented and researched for hundreds of years and it all started with keen naturalists who kept journals about what they saw and studied. Even though, we now have computers that can store and analyse different data from nature, it is still a lot of fun to keep a nature diary of the natural world around us.



Nature diary or journal will teach children to become keen observers of the natural world and enjoy the wonder of nature that have a lasting effect.

### Activity Brief:

A nature journal is a place to record one's observations of nature. It might include sketches or drawings, written descriptions, photographs and natural objects such as leaves or flowers. Children can keep their own personal record of all the interesting things you see and find. Keeping a hard cover notebook as nature diary is advised as it is better protected. There are no specific rules when it comes to nature journals!



## Requirements

1. A hard note book
2. Cello /Mask Tape
3. Colored pencil
4. Glue
5. Pen



## Lets get Started:

1. Start your diary with a date, write how the weather is and where even local people you have visited.

For e.g. :

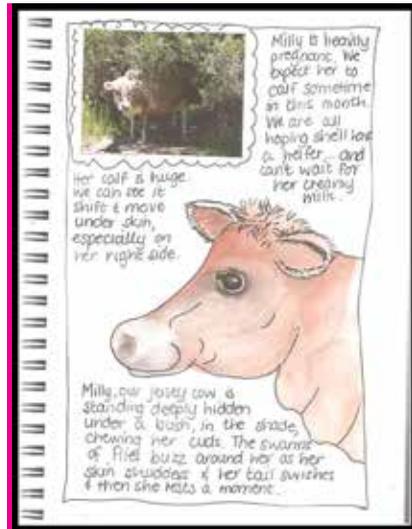
*Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, sunny day with some clouds, went to uncle's house in Sundarjal passing through a large forest.*

2. Divide your journal, if possible according to the theme. For example dedicate one page to plants, flowers and leaves and another to animals.

If you find some leaves or flowers press them in a big book. When they are flat and dry, stick them into the diary. You can also make rubbings from leaves, bark, etc.

3. You can also stick interesting things that you find for eg. feathers in your diary. Write down where and when you found them and label them if you know what it is.

4. Try drawing the birds or animals that you see, or the big tree that you sat under. You don't need to be perfect.



5. Write about what you observe and how you feel. If you loved the smell of a flower, go ahead and put that in your journal.

6. Visit local library, search the internet and read more about what you've seen, especially if something in particular interested you, or if you have any unanswered questions.

7. Revisit your past entries from time to time. You can relive days long gone by just by flipping the pages, or you can see how your attitudes and writing styles have changed over time.





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