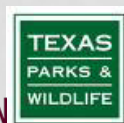
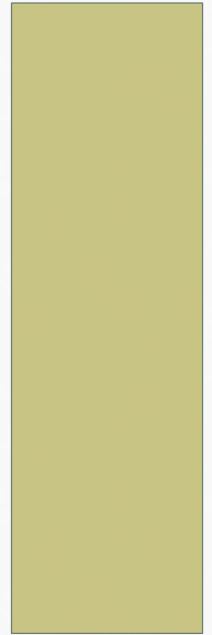


HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES FOR BOOTHS AND PRESENTATIONS

IRMI WILLCOCKSON, MASTER NATURALIST
GULF COAST CHAPTER



WHY HANDS-ON?

- Keep visitors engaged longer
- Engage kids while their adults browse the booth
- May give visitors something to take home



CONSIDERATIONS

- What is the theme for the booth?
- How many people are you expecting?
- What mix of ages?
- How much time will they have (especially important for weekday presentations when school groups will attend)?
- How many volunteers will you have?
- How much prep time do you have?
- How much space will you have?
- \$\$ to set up, \$\$ per person



RUBBING PLATES



Materials

- Rubbing plates
- ½ sheet paper/person
- unwrapped crayons

Instructions

Tape down plates. Place paper across and tape down. Let visitors reveal the animal and its tracks.

ANIMAL TRACKS

Materials

- Molds of different animal tracks
- quick set plaster

Prep: Cast animal tracks, let dry.

- 1 paper bag/person
- 1 animal information sheet/person
- Track

Instructions

Let visitor choose the track, place in paper bag with info sheet.



AIR DRY CLAY PENDANT

Materials (per person)

- 1 in ball of Air dry clay
- 1/2 paper towel
- 1 sandwich bag
- 1 piece of string/yarn
- pony beads (optional)
- Several paper plates, plastic sheet or similar to protect table - stick to poke hole – things to make impression

Instructions

Roll clay into smooth ball, then flatten onto plate/plastic. Choose one or several things to make impression. Poke hole. Wrap in paper towel and place in sandwich bag along with beads. Instruct visitor to let dry overnight before assembling, and not to get wet.



BUTTERFLIES

Materials

- Baby wipes - Thick water-soluble markers

Prep: Use markers to color baby wipes and allow to dry.

Per person

- 1 colored baby wipe
- ½ chenille stem

Instructions

Fold chenille stem in half, place baby wipe in fold, twist to hold in place, make antennae.

TREE COOKIES

Materials

- Tree cookies
- magnifying lenses

Instructions

Have visitors lay the lens on top of the cookie, then raise it until it looks magnified. Talk about growth rings, what it says about environment, season, etc.



NATURE/FIELD JOURNAL

Note: This is most appropriate for grades 3-8. For younger kids, use a larger envelope and whole sheets of paper.

Materials

- 1 6.5 x9.5 manila envelope with clasp/journal
- Packing tape
- Clear tape
- Yarn/string/ribbon
- 1 sheet white paper/journal
- 1 sheet lined paper/journal

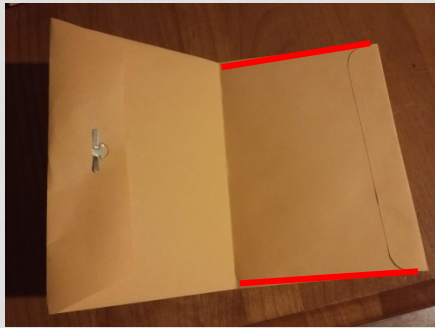
Source:

<http://excellenceinteachingscience.blogspot.com/2013/07/field-journal.html?m=1>



NATURE JOURNAL - CONTINUED

Preparation: Make journal:



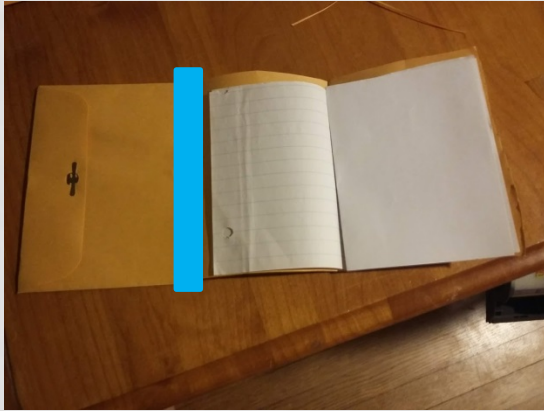
- Close brad and fold entire envelope in half with clasp on the inside



- Cut a sliver off top and bottom and along fold



NATURE JOURNAL - CONTINUED



- Open and tape along cut to create pocket with brad
- Cut 8.5 x 11 paper in half, then fold
- Add paper to journal
- Attach string to back with tape



REFLECT

- Which activity was your favorite?
- Which activity could be modified to address a different topic?
- Which activity would appeal to adults/older youths?
- Which is the most expensive initially? What about for each booth/presentation?



CONTACT INFORMATION

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