

Collecting

Just experiencing things in the natural setting is fine. Bring back memories and impressions. But collecting things is fun too.

- Photograph or draw objects and items in the natural setting.
- Bring back (something small) in a small container- cup, zip lock bag, etc. The container helps keep the size and number of items manageable.
- "Catch and release" for any living items.

Adult helps choose what can be brought indoors.

Displays and "Museums":

Bring items/ specimens back to display or to do other things later

- Display your natural item(s) on your desk/table or your spot on the bulletin board,
- Press and dry appropriate natural items (leaves, flowers, etc.)
- Put the objects into a plastic tote or other container(s) (as appropriate; some things really should stay outside). Children can see "their" item from time to time, can even watch as it changes (dries out, molds, rots, etc.)
- Make a simple terrarium in a glass or clear plastic jar. Put in sand for drainage, then a chunk of earth with moss or other small plants, and mist it with water. Put the lid on loosely. Watch it over time.

Projects:

- Do a collage or poster or sculpture with the natural item(s).
- Make a large poster of the items. Glue down the objects; add children's own words. Make it artistic, scientific, as you prefer.
- Make a book adding the objects and add words. For a group, if each child does his/her own page individually the pages can be assembled into a book later in a ring binder.
- Make a large poster showing how many of each thing was brought back. Graph it. (sorting, categorizing, counting, graphing) Do in the large group, or each child can bring their item to the poster individually with a helper and the large group can see results later.

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