

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Journaling, Bookmaking, Observing

Materials List

- ✓ Paper bag
- ✓ White candle
- ✓ Colored crayons
- ✓ Thick rubber band
- ✓ Matte board
- ✓ Hole punch
- ✓ Paper
- ✓ Iron
- ✓ Twig
- ✓ Newspapers

This activity can be used to support the teaching of: Common Core English LA:

- Narratives (Grades K-12, Writing, 3)
- Development & organization (Grades 3-12, Writing, 4)

National Visual Arts:

- Artistic investigations and observations (Creating – Generate & conceptualize artistic ideas & work, Grades Pre K-2)

Next Generation Science:

- Weather conditions (Earth and Space Science, Grade K, 2-1; Grade 3, 2-1)
- Weathering (Grade 4, Earth and Space Science 2-1)
- Observations of habitats (Grade 2, Life Science 4-1)
- Science & Engineering Practices (Grades K-12)



Nature Book

For Day or Overnight Outdoor Outings



Create this artistic and outdoorsy book from easily found materials.

Assembly

1. Cut 2 covers, 14 cm x 21 cm (5 ½" X 8 ½") works well: 1 from the paper bag (front cover) and 1 from matte board (back cover).
2. Decorate the paper bag (front cover) with crayon drawings (Hint: use darker crayons for more vibrant images).
3. Rub the paper bag cover (front and back) with a white candle.
4. Crumple up the cover and smooth it out 20 – 30 times.
5. Lay newspaper on a smooth surface. Put the waxed paper bag cover on the newspaper and cover it with another sheet of newspaper.
6. Iron the newspaper and paper bag cover stack with a warm iron using a back and forth motion for about 30 seconds or until the wax melts into the cover.
7. Punch 2 holes for the binding of the book through the covers and blank pages.
8. Bind the book together using the rubber band and twig. Thread one end of the rubber band through a hole and loop it around the twig. Thread the other end of the rubber band through the second hole and secure into place by looping it around the other end of the twig.

To Do and Notice

Fill the pages of the journal with thoughts, drawings, poems, plant rubbings, and observations from day or overnight journeys to the great outdoors.

The Content Behind the Activity

People have been collecting and recording thoughts, ideas, and information in written form for millennia. Although not always taking present-day book form (e.g. – clay tablets, scrolls), the concept of recording information in a book for remote retrieval was truly a giant leap for mankind. Major developments in book history include the first alphabets (appearing around 1000 b.c.) and mechanical printing (1455 a.d. by Johannes Gutenberg) that helped spark the European Renaissance. Many famous naturalists, including Charles Darwin and Meriwether Lewis, used journal drawings and notes as a means of collecting information.

Taking it Further

For more specific suggestions of journal topics to use in a camp journal, see the RAFT Idea Sheet *Camp or Bust!*

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=240 for more resources!)

For information on book history, visit: <http://www.xs4all.nl/~knops/timetab.html>