

### Preserving Wildflowers

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This DIY plant pressing activity can be enjoyed by all ages.

A small amount of supplies and a little imagination can create memorable gifts and keepsakes.



Pressed flowers can be used to create custom cards, bookmarks or be used as framed artwork.

Go out and explore your backyard and collect a variety of leaves and flowers of all shapes and sizes and let's get started!

#### Materials needed to get started:

- Newspaper
- Cardboard
- Construction Paper
- Heavy Books
- Straps or Large Rubber Band
- Flower and leaves

**Instructions:** Creating dried, pressed flowers is like creating a lasagna.

#### It's all about the layers:

- Heavy Book
- Cardboard (provide airflow to help dry plants)
- Construction Paper (helps absorb the moisture)
- Newspaper (with plants between the sheets)
- Construction Paper
- Cardboard (continue layers until done)
- Heavy Book
- Strap it together

Leave your bundle in a dry warm place for 3 weeks. After that, the plants should be preserved and craft ready.

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## Nature Crafts



Flowers and leaves should be placed between newspaper sheets (10 sheets should work well). You may want to label the date, location of collection and plant name if known on the newspaper for future reference.

Don't overcrowd the paper with plant material. Spread them out and try to have the flowers/leaves lie flat on the sheet so they dry in the form you want.

Make as many layers as you like, just remember the layering rules: Cardboard, Construction Paper, Newspaper, Construction Paper and then begin again with another layer of cardboard. When finished, put another heavy book on top and tightly strap it together.



After three weeks, you can unstrap your bundle and check out your plants. To help speed up the process, you can place your bundle near a radiator or somewhere else warm in your house. The plants should be dry to the touch. Additional suggestions include: Create your natural artworks by gluing, not taping, your dried plants. You can also consider creating your own herbarium by labeling sheets with the date, location and plant identification of what was created.

*Please remember you can only take memories from our state parks, picking wildflowers is not allowed.*

