



Craft Projects

Pet rocks

Collect rocks from beaches, river beds or your own backyard. Sort them by color or shape, look for interesting markings, and see if you can identify them as igneous, metamorphic, or sedimentary rocks. Have fun categorizing them, and then get creative with paint, fabric and accessories and make a collection of pet rocks! Use a medium-point black permanent marker to make faces, and then glue on pieces of felt, feathers, anything you like. Display in a windowsill or use as a paperweight.

Garden markers

Garden markers are used to identify types of vegetables or flowers. Make your own with wooden spoons or wooden paint stirrers. Write the name of the crop or flower type, using a thin or medium point permanent marker (like a Sharpie). Then paint a pretty picture using waterproof paint or permanent colored markers.

Wind chimes

Collect shells and lightweight stones from outdoors and miscellaneous objects from around the house (like beads, buttons, bottle caps, plastic pen caps, old game pieces, costume jewelry, Christmas ornaments or cat toys with bells). Now find a flat, circular object to form the top of the wind chime. A large plastic yogurt lid or Tupperware lid is ideal. If a parent has an electric drill, ask them to drill small holes in objects like bottle caps. Otherwise, use a hole punch and string and glue to tie objects to different lengths of string. Then punch holes in the plastic top and pull the strings through. Tie securely and hang from a tree branch.

Bookmarks

Bored on a rainy day? Make book marks to use with your summer reading, and make an extra supply to keep on hand for gift-giving throughout the year. Book marks are an ideal gift for teachers, friends and book lovers of all ages.

Start by hunting for visually interesting objects that can be recycled and repurposed. For instance, you're half way through the calendar year; are there pictures on the January—June pages of your calendar that can be cut up and reused? Any old postcards or greeting cards? Scraps of gift-wrapping paper?

Bookmarks are simple to make: cut rectangular shapes of card stock; use glue stick to place a picture (or collage of pictures) onto the card stock, leaving a ¼ inch border on the sides and a ½-inch border at the top; laminate if possible; then punch a hole in the top and attach a cord or ribbon cord or ribbon.

