

# Week of Making



## Nature Self Portrait

### What You Need

- Pencil and eraser
- Mirror
- Shoebox for gathering items in
- Sturdy, durable paper, card stock, some nice looking blank cardboard or even a thin piece of plywood.
- Glue; I recommend hot glue, Elmer's or general white glue and wood glue. Hot glue is nice because it works fast but it does not work on everything. Elmer's and wood glue are slower drying but if you work on this outside it will dry fairly fast.
- Elements from nature (grass, rocks, dirt, twigs, leaves, pine cones... chose some things you really like or that mean something to you)
- Pruning shears and garden gloves may be useful in gathering and adjusting materials

### What You Do

1. Start with your canvas (the wood, cardboard, or paper) so you can first make a sketch. Set up a mirror to look at while you draw so you capture your features on paper.
2. Take the shoebox and explore your yard, nearest green patch, or park and collect things from the environment for use in the self-portrait.
3. With your canvas in front of you, experiment with arranging different objects to make the face, eyes, and hair. Do not glue anything down until you are completely satisfied.
4. Glue it all in place.
6. After the glue dries, hang the self-portrait somewhere all to see! If it is done on plywood or something weather resistant it can even be hung outside in the garden or on a tree.

### Questions to ask

- *Why did you pick certain items? What do the items used tell us about you?*
- *What do you like best about your self-portrait?*
- *What effect do the natural materials have on the overall piece? What do you know about the materials you chose?*

### What's The Science?

Take this time to discuss living versus nonliving items in nature. Depending on the interests of your child, this project can also be a jumping off point to discuss the rock cycle, erosion, what is in soil, photosynthesis, or the parts of plants and their functions.

### Try This

**Use science vocabulary:** Use science vocabulary such as living, nonliving, soil, erosion, roots, stem, branch, trunk, bark, flowers, leaves, seeds, sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic.

**Extend the activity:** Try building self-portrait sculptures. This could incorporate tool usage and the opportunity to teach kids tool safety and proper usage. Attaching some things with nails or screws.

**Creating a head with more accurate proportions:**

Draw an oval that is wider toward the top than at the bottom. Add two half circles on each side for the ears. Draw two circles for the beginning of the eyes. Add a smaller circle inside each of the eye circles. The eyes fall right in the middle of the head. Draw a small curved line for the bottom of the nose. For the mouth, draw a half oval for the bottom lip. Add a slightly curved triangle for the top lip. Draw the hair with a series of angled lines. Use curved lines for eyebrows. Draw an oval around the eye circles. Place a curved line over the top of the oval to add depth. Add a curved line from the right eye to the nose.

