

# Nature

*Some are red and gold, too.  
Some are red and gold, too.  
Then they float down. Then they float down.*

*It is winter. It is winter.  
The trees are bare. The trees are bare.  
The trees are resting now.  
The trees are resting now.  
No leaves anywhere. No leaves anywhere.*

*It is springtime. It is springtime.  
New leaves appear. New leaves appear.  
They will start to grow.  
They will start to grow.  
Summer is near. Summer is near.*

## Related book

*Over and Over* by Charlotte Zolotow

Mary Brehm, Aurora, OH

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## Nature Necklaces

3+

### Science skills

*In this matching activity, children observe and compare items from nature.*

### Materials

Items from nature  
Yarn

Cardboard  
Clear contact paper

### What to do

1. Beforehand, visit an area where the children can walk and where they can collect nature items. Collect items that the children will be able to find, such as leaves, seeds, flowers, one item for each child.
2. Back in the classroom, cut circles of cardboard small enough to be worn as a medallions but large enough to hold the gathered nature item.
3. Mount a nature item on each piece of cardboard.
4. Cover the cardboard and nature item with clear contact paper.

5. Punch a hole at the top of the cardboard circle, put a piece of yarn through the hole and tie it to make a necklace.
6. Give each child a necklace. Have her look closely at the item. Explain to the children that they will be going on a nature walk to look for items just like the ones on their necklaces. Walk to the area where you gathered the items and allow the children to look for items that match their Nature Necklaces.

### More to do

**Art:** Gather extra items and use them to make a collage. Ask older children to draw a picture of their nature item.

**Math:** Make a graph representing the different types of nature items the children found. Record how many leaves, how many seeds, etc., they found.

**Transitions:** Use the different types of items on the necklaces as a transition tool: "Children with flower necklaces may line up. Children with leaf necklaces may line up...."

■ Sarah Dill, Madison, WI

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## Nature Sort

### Science skills

*This activity will stimulate children's curiosity and interest in their environment and nature and*

*Downloaded by test@gryphonhouse.com children will learn to classify objects.*

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### Materials

Several items from outdoors: seashell, bone, stick, pine cone, rock leaf, etc.

Several items from recycling: soda can, plastic water bottle, newspaper, etc.

Two large pieces of paper

### What to do

1. Beforehand, label one large piece of paper NATURE and add an outdoor picture, label the other RECYCLE and add a picture of a recycling container.
2. With all the children sitting in a circle, introduce the concept of natural and wild places and how to take care of them.
3. Place all of the items in the middle of the circle of children and talk about each one.
4. Show the children the two sorting places and discuss what each means.
5. Let the children take turns choosing an object, labeling it and stating whether it is a natural thing that belongs in wild places or something that should be recycled (not left behind as litter) and placing it on the appropriate paper.
6. When you have sorted all the items, count the ones in each group and ask the children which category has the most.
7. Discuss the different recycling items, and how they might harm wildlife if they were left as litter.
8. Ask the children to think of other ways they can help take care of natural places.