

Print out all of the pages, punch two holes at the top, and bind with a paper fastener or tie with ribbon. Tip: printing the front and back cover on cardstock (or adhering it on cardstock after printing) will make the booklet more sturdy



The Bug Observatory



Every little out-door explorer needs their own personal bug observatory. This bug catcher is as fun to make as it is to use. Simply follow the instructions below

Supplies:

- Two empty tuna fish cans rinsed and dried
- A Piece of screen mesh approx. 11.25X10.5"
- Patterned paper with a bug pattern
- Hot glue (high temp works best)

Instructions:

Cover the cans with patterned paper. Roll the screen into a tube. To determine exact fit, place it in the bottom of one of the tuna fish cans and trim the screen if necessary. Once the fit is determined, hot glue the mesh screen into the tube shape. Put hot glue on one end of the screen and place into the bottom of one of the tuna fish cans. Hold until it is secured. Turn the remaining can upside down and use as a lid for the top of the observatory.

Fib Flap



Not only is this game fun to make it will have your family rolling in laughter. Your children will be shocked when you tell them that they are actually encouraged to "fib". Each player will draw 4 cards. A person, a place, an object, and a word card. Then they have 90 seconds to tell an outrageous story. The best story wins!

Supplies:

- 1 tin box the one shown is from Provo Craft (4X5.5" & 2.75" w)
- Paint
- Patterned paper (Lime Ricky collection from Basic Grey)
- Game pieces printed (free) from www.kmckaydesigns.com
- 20 2X3 photos of family or friends (optional)

Instructions:

Paint the top of the box. Tip: the paint will adhere to the metal better if you first prep it with Gesso which is a paint primer. Cover the the outside of the tin, and inside lid with patterned paper. The Lime Ricky Collection from Basic Grey was used in the photo above. Print out all of the game pieces (free) from www.kmckaydesigns.com. There is an optional print for the backs of the cards that you can use if desired. You can either run the pages back through the printer to make double sided prints, or you can just print them out on separate sheets of paper and adhere them to the backs of the playing cards before cutting. Once all of the cards, game pieces, and labels are printed cut them out. You will need to create 20-30 "People" cards. The ones provided are blank. You can either add a 2X2 photo or simply write their name. Use the dividers to separate all of the cards into the correct categories. When completed, let the game begin. The best fib wins!

Chocolate Play Dough



www.momadvice.com

Ingredients:

- 3 cups powdered sugar
- 6 tablespoons baking cocoa
- 3/4 cup powdered milk
- 1/2 cup butter room temperature (no substitutes)
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Directions:

Knead with hands until it is the consistency of a tootsie roll.

All About Me Drawing Journal



Let your little one tell their own story with this fun "All About Me" drawing journal. Each page asks a question like "What was your best day ever?" It has an area where they can draw their memories and a section below that they can write out their thoughts, or have a grown up help them. On the back side of each page you can attach photos if desired.

Supplies:

- Two pieces of 8.75"X5.75" chipboard
- The printed projects pieces (free) available at www.kmckaydesigns.com
- Patterned paper (Robotics Collection fromCrate paper is shown)
- 2 Large googly eyes
- 3 medium office rings
- 6 large eyelets (optional)
- coordinating ribbon

Instructions:

Create the front and back covers by covering the chipboard with Patterned paper on both sides. Cut out an arrow on solid coordinating paper by using the template in the instructions. Cut out the circle, attach the googly eyes and have your child finish the face by drawing a picture that looks like them. Attach it to the front cover as shown. Cut out the remaining words from the instructions and adhere on the cover as shown. Attach the "name" label on the back cover. Print and trim all of the journal pages. When completed, stack the album together in the desired order and punch three holes down the left edge (the crop-o-dile works best). Set eyelets in the punched holes if desired. Attach the office rings and tie on coordinating ribbon.

A day in the Life



Have your child create this fun "A Day in the Life" circle album. Not only will they have a blast creating it, you'll have a keepsake that will last a life time. Each page has an area to record the time, activity, and place to write a brief note. The opposite page has a blank spot to attach a photo of each activity.

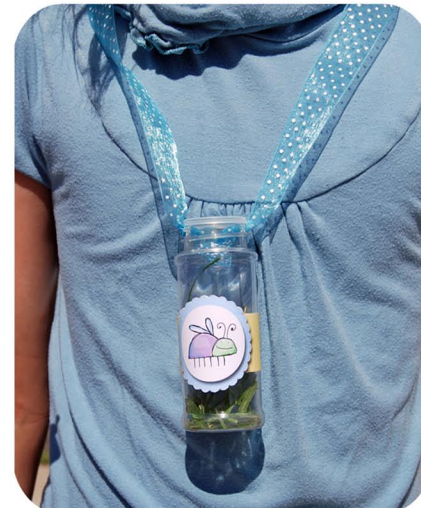
Supplies:

- Printed album pages available for free at www.kmckaydesigns.com
- Coordinating black and red ribbon
- Pattern paper (I used Scenic Route's Surprise Collection)
- 2 eyelets (optional)
- A small office ring
- clock hands kit Available for around \$2 at any craft store
- A brad to attach clock hands

Instructions:

Go on line to www.kmckaydesigns.com and print out the cover (clock face) and the album pages. There are 12 album pages, but you can print more if needed. Tip: printing it out on cardstock will make the album sturdier. Cut out all of the pages and cover the back of each album page with patterned paper. This will be the side that you place a photo. Attach the clock hands to the front cover using a brad. Adhere the "Life of . . ." page to the back of the front cover. When the pages are completed, stack the album and punch a hole in the in the top of the album through all of the pages (the Crop-a-dile eyelet setter works the best). I punched mine between the 10 and 11. Tip: make sure you don't punch through the text on the inside album pages. Once the holes are punched you can attach an eyelet to the front and back cover if desired. Use the office ring to bind the pages.

Bug Catcher Necklace



Create a 2-in-1 bug catcher/fashion statement. Show off your latest catch with this fun bug catcher necklace.

Supplies:

- A clear plastic spice jar
- Printable label from www.kmckaydesigns.com
- a long piece of ribbon for necklace

Instructions:

Rinse out the plastic spice jar container. The one shown is an old cake sprinkle jar. Carefully remove label. Tip: soak the jar in hot water to loosen the paper. Use dish soap to remove the sticky gum. If that doesn't work, try spraying on a little bit of oil or Pam cooking spray. Do not sue any kind of adhesive remover because it will scar the plastic. Print and cut out the label available at www.kmckaydesigns.com. For a layered look attach the separate bug embellishment to the label with mounting foam or 3D glue dots. Discard the lid to the spice jar (just keeping the cap with the holes-this is perfect to give your little creature air). Punch a hole on each side, thread the ribbon through, and tie a knot on each end.

I'm BORED JAR



The dreaded words for every mother during summer vacation are "MOM, I'm bored". This summer try something new. Create this fun "I'm Bored Jar." Next time your little one utters the dreaded words you can ask them "are you ready to take a chance?" If so, they can draw pout one slip of paper from the "I'm Bored Jar". If they are lucky it might suggest a fun activity such as making cookies or running through the sprinklers. However, they might also draw a job card that gives them a task such as cleaning their room or vacuuming a room. Turn boredom into a fun game of chance.

Supplies:

- An empty Jar or Plastic container
- 3 sheets of pattern paper (I used Lime Ricky by Basic Gray)
- Free printable game pieces available at WWW.Kmckaydesigns.com

Instructions: Print out the game pieces from Kmckaydesigns.com. You can either print them directly on the blank side of patterned paper by cutting them down to 8.5X11 and feeding it through your printer. Alternatively, you can print them on regular printer paper and adhere it to the back side of pattern paper. Cut out each task, fold in half, and place in the jar. Select a piece of pattern paper to wrap around the center of the jar and then adhere the "I'm Bored" label. Cut out each of the words "Take a Chance" (on the instruction sheet), Mat them onto coordinating paper and then adhere to the top of the jar.

GAK



Create a "Silly Putty" like substance at home called GAK. It will provide hours of fun. To create the storage container shown use an empty 8oz. container (an old sour cream tub was used in the photo shown). Print and cut out the instructions and labels (free) at www.kmckaydesigns.com

Recipe For GAK

First Part:

- 1 1/2 cups warm water
- 2 cups Elmers white glue
- Food coloring
- Mix together until completely dissolved

Second Part:

- 4 teaspoons borax
(found on Laundry Detergent aisle)
- 1 1/3 cups warm water
- Mix together until completely dissolved

Pour Part 1 into part 2. Do not mix!
Lift Gak out and knead into shape.

Lady Bug Bubble Blower



Create this fun bubble blower with your kids by simply recycling an old butter or sour cream container. Fill with water and dish soap, insert straw and listen to the giggles as they blow bubbles from this cute little lady bug.

Supplies:

- An empty plastic container (such as an old butter or sour cream tub)
- Red and black paint
- Two large googly eyes
- A hole punch (Crop-a-dile works best)
- Two drinking straws
- Dish soap and water

Instructions:

Rinse and dry the plastic container. Cover with red paint. Tip: applying a coat of Gesso first will help the paint adhere to the plastic better. Use black paint and a small paint brush (or a black permanent marker) to make polka dots and to paint a solid head. Decorate as shown or create your own design. Attach googly eyes. Punch a hole in the lid and insert straw (cut to desired length). Punch another hole in the base approx. 1" from the top on the opposite side (so the bubbles will blow away from your body). Fill the container with dish soap and water. Blow air into the straw and watch the bubbles!

Pocket Scavenger Hunt



Get ready, set, GO! Every child loves a scavenger hunt. This game is not only fun, it comes in an adorable pocket size case, that is recycled from an old Altoid tin. It might be small but it packs hours of fun.

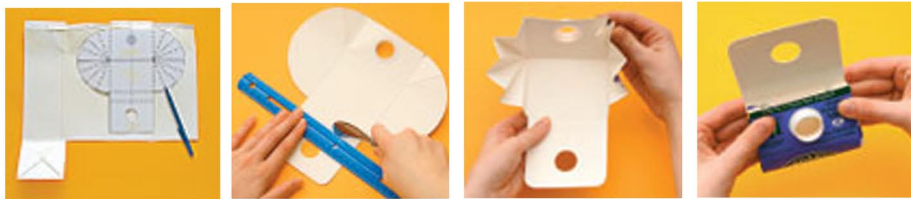
Supplies:

- 1 empty Altoid tin
- Printed instructions from www.kmckaydesigns.com (free)
- Patterned Paper ("Lime Ricky" from Basic Grey is shown)

Instructions:

Print and cut out the game pieces and instructions available for free at www.kmckaydesigns.com. Optional: you can adhere a sheet of patterned paper to the back of the game pieces before you cut out the cards, if you desire. Cover the box with patterned paper and attach the label to the top of the box. Place all of the cards including the instruction card into the box. Follow the instructions to begin game play.

Milk Carton Wallet



Recycle a milk or juice carton to create this fun and unique carrying case. simply download the instructions and template at www.familyfun.com

Summer "Emergency" Fun Basket



Kick off summer by sharing a basket full of fun summer activities with your kids. This will be your first line of defense for the dreaded summer boredom. On those sunny afternoons when it just seems like there is nothing else to do you can pull out your emergency activity kit. Fill an inexpensive basket with paint projects, clay, educational games, flashcards, a jump-rope, my personal favorite a collection of pipe cleaners, pom-poms, and googly eyes to make silly creatures, sidewalk chalk, and any other fun activities that you think your children might enjoy.

Message in a Bottle



Create a “message in a bottle” by using an empty glass bottle (the bottle shown is an old smuckers syrup jar). Download the label and sheet of stationery from www.kmckaydesigns.com. Obviously, if you are going to throw the bottle into water you won't need a label. Write a quick message and contact info if desired (using an anonymous email address is the safest). Make sure the jar is completely dry before putting the note inside. Then choose a location to hide the jar and sit back and wait for it to be found.

Tin Can Stilts



Your kid's will have hours of fun with these tin can stilts. They are easy to make and durable enough to last all summer. When they master the skill of walking they can even try racing each other.

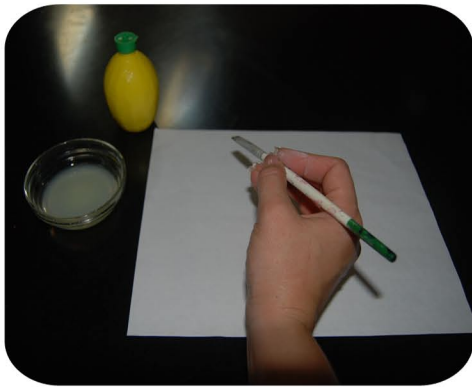
Supplies:

- 2) empty 29 oz. tin cans
- Paint
- Patterned paper (optional)
- Paint
- Hammer and nail
- a thin cord for the handles

Instructions: Rinse and dry two 29 ounce tin cans. Fill them each with approx. 1-2 inches of water and place in freezer (this will make punching the holes easier). When they are completely frozen, use a hammer and nail to punch two holes on the tops of the cans (the top will be the end that has not been opened with a can opener this is the solid end that they will step on). Run hot water over the cans to melt the ice inside, rinse, and dry. Next spray paint and decorate with stencils or use patterned paper as shown in the above picture (Robotics collection from Crate Paper was used). Measure the cord so that the child can use the rope as handles. You will want the rope to pull tight. Thread the rope through the holes that you punched in the tops of the cans and tie and knot on the inside.

Lemon Juice Mystery

Every Child loves a good mystery. Take turns creating secret hidden messages with a friend. All you need is a sheet of paper, a cup of lemon juice, a small paint brush, and a toaster.



Dip the paintbrush into the lemon juice and write your message on the paper. Let dry.



Adult Supervision is required. Hold the paper over a toaster. Careful not to touch the toaster with the paper (it could catch fire). Watch as the hidden message slowly appears

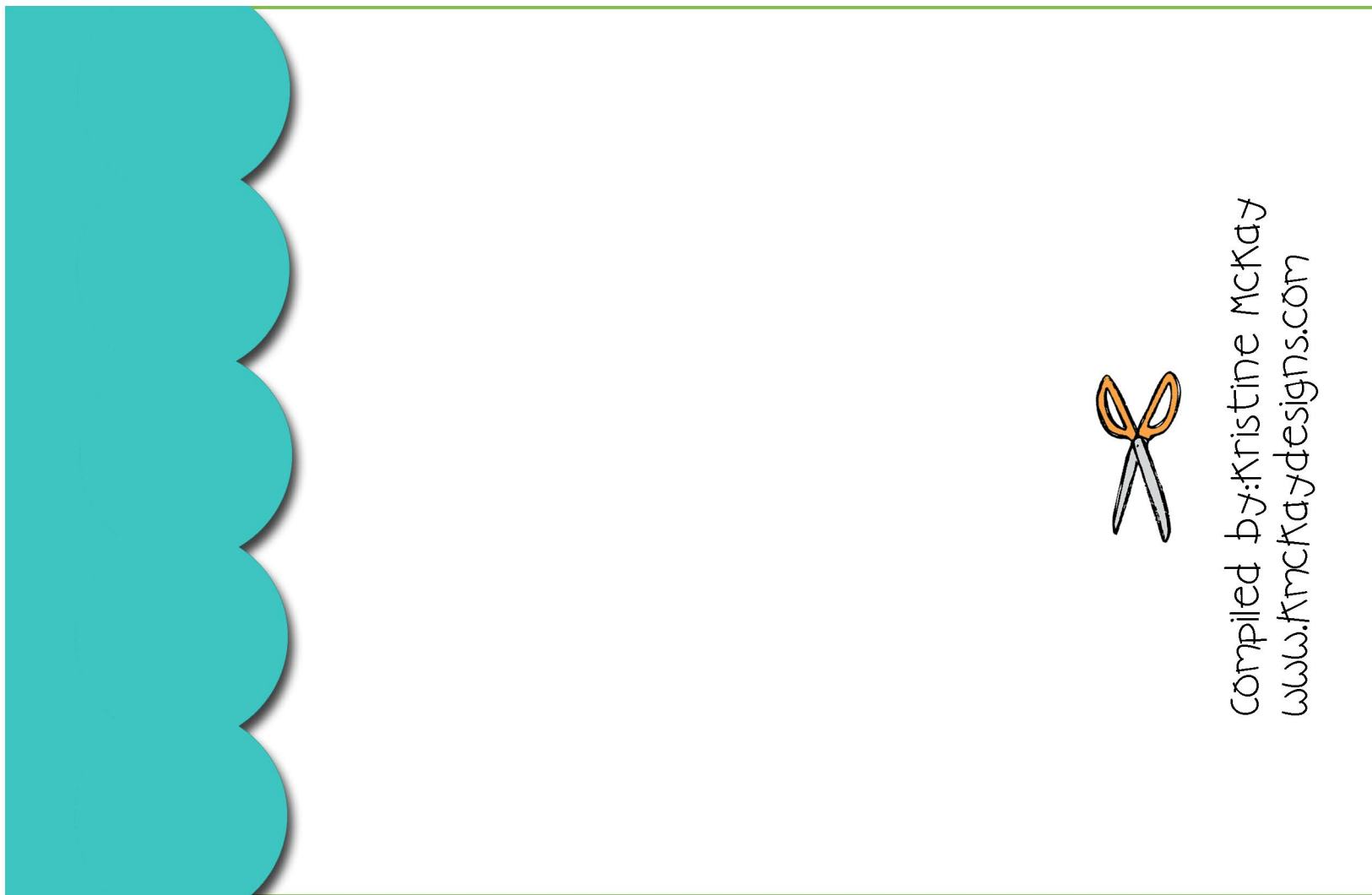
This Rocks!



Create this beautiful glittered pendant out of an ordinary rock. Simply find the desired shape. Paint, spray with adhesive, and carefully pour glitter over the rock. When it is completely dried, shake off the excess glitter. Wrap a thick wire around the rock. Make sure that the bottom is criss-crossed so that the wire doesn't slip off. Create a little loop at the top for the chain to thread through and cut off the excess wire. For extra reinforcement you can add a touch of hot glue to the back (a high temp gun works the best). Use a leather cord, chain, or ribbon to thread through the pendant to make a necklace.



Get lost for hours creating crazy rock creatures. There are endless possibilities. Simply collect various rocks of different shapes and sizes. Use smaller stones for the head or feet. Glue them together using hot glue (a high temp gun works the best). Use bright colored paints to finish off your creatures. Add fun stripes and polka-dots. Let your imagination go wild. For a wacky touch add large googly eyes. This is one craft project that never gets old.



www.kmckaydesigns.com