

Nature Crafts: Valentines Cards



Materials:

- Dried leaves
- Recycled paper/cardstock
- Paint
- Glue
- Scissors
- Heavy books/weight

What to do:

1. Hunt for leaves! Head outside and hunt close to tree trunks for fallen leaves. The more heart-shaped the better.
2. Press and preserve the leaves between the pages of a heavy book or between paper with a weight on top for a few days. The paper will absorb the moisture and the pressure will flatten the leaves.
3. Cut or fold recycled paper/cardstock into preferred card shape and size.
4. Decorate! Paint the leaf, make it glittery, draw designs on it, use the leaf as a stamp with paint on your paper, cut it into a heart shape, add eyes and make a leaf character, get creative!
5. Glue the leaf onto the card then add a name and Valentine's message.

Examples:

- You are unbe-leaf-able!
- I can't be-leaf how much I love you!
- I will never leaf you!
- I'm falling for you

Nature Crafts: Valentines Seed Paper Hearts



Materials:

- Wildflower seeds
- Mix of scrap paper
- Old towels
- Screen or mesh strainer
- Blender/food processor
- Scissors or heart shaped cookie cutter
- String
- Hole punch

What to do:

1. Rip the paper up into small pieces and put into a container with hot water to soften. Leave for a couple hours or overnight.
2. Blend paper and water together until mushy. May be easier to blend in small amounts. Can add a few drops of food coloring (optional).
3. Add the seeds to your mush and mix in.
4. Strain water through the mesh strainer, gently push mush against the strainer to ring out extra water.
5. Lay down a towel and create an even thin layer of mushy paper spread on top. If using a cookie cutter, set it down on the towel and make a thin layer inside the cookie cutter to create shape.
6. To help dry, place in front of a space heater, vent, or use a hair dryer. It may take a couple of days to completely dry.
7. If you did not use a cookie cutter, cut into a heart shape with scissors.
8. Create hole with a hole punch and tie your planting instructions and special message onto your seed paper heart with string. All done!

Examples:

- You make my heart bloom!
- If you were a flower, I'd pick you.
- I hope our friendship grows!