

NOTE: There are two crafts to follow:

Nature Picture Frame

Original idea and photo from ehow.com and Jessica Begum



Here's what you need:

- Twigs
- Wood or Cardboard Picture Frame
- Glue
- Paint
- Flowers, Pinecones, Any Other Bits of Nature

Here's what you do:

1. Go on a walk and collect your bits of nature. Pray and meditate on the living world around you. What can it teach you? What do you notice?
2. Prepare your frame. If you have a frame you would like to use already you can skip this step. If you don't have a frame you can make one with cardboard or any other sturdy material. Glue the sides together but don't worry if it's not perfect, when you glue the twigs on it will make the frame stronger.
3. Glue (any kind of glue you have will work) your twigs onto your frame.
4. after the twigs are dry glue on the other decorative bits of nature you have collected.
5. Once everything is dry, check for any loose bits and add a little more glue.

That's it, have fun!

Pressed Flower Ornaments and Coasters

Original idea and pictures from Twig and Toadstool, Hymns and Verses, It's Always Autumn and Good Housekeeping

Here's what you need:

- 1 Cup Flour
- 1 Cup Salt
- ½ Cup Warm Water
- Flowers, Leaves, and Other Items to imprint
- Mod Podge
- Rolling pin
- String (optional)
- Acrylic Paint (optional)



Here's what you do:

1. Mix flour and salt together in a bowl and slowly add warm water mixing as you go. Once the mixture gets too hard to mix with a spoon, mix with your hands and knead until dough is soft and pliable.
2. Roll dough out. Thickness is up to you, just keep in mind, the thicker it is the longer it will take to dry. If you are making imprints, place items on clay and roll into the clay. Use a cup or cookie cutters to cut out shapes for your ornament or coaster. Don't forget to poke holes now if you are making ornaments.
3. Peel items off clay if you made imprints. Let shapes air dry or bake at 200* for a few hours until dry all the way through.
4. If you are pressing flowers or nature to glue on the coaster, now is the time to do that. Place flowers/leaves between two sheets of paper towels and place in microwave. Place any heavy, microwave save object on top of the paper towels. Microwave at 30 second intervals, checking between until items are dry.
5. Once your clay shapes and flowers are dry you are ready to finish your project. You can keep them natural, paint the clay, add dried flowers, glitter, whatever you like! Add a layer of Mod Podge to seal ornaments or coasters *(just be careful of the hole if you made ornaments)*