

Wings, Worms, and Wonder Wonder Wednesday #17!

Let's Make a Pocket Nature Journal!

These are the written instructions to accompany the video tutorial from the Newsletter signup and January 2014 Wonder Wednesday #17 Lesson Plan. These little pocket journals are really fun to make for a day outing or field trip and are a unique tool for documenting discoveries made on specific topics. They can be designed to document a special event like “My Trip to the Met Museum” or they can be used to explore a specific topic like “Houseplants in My House” or for anything that inspired you and the children in your life! If you use a thicker paper like construction, you can use them to create a pressed flower or leaf booklet. The possibilities are as endless as your imagination!

Materials:

1 piece of rectangular paper (recycled copy paper is what I use in the video, drawing paper or light colored construction paper also work)
scissors
writing and drawing pencils, markers, or crayons

Procedure:

Place your piece of paper on a flat surface in a vertical position
Fold it in half longways (vertically)
Then fold it in half again shortways (horizontally)
Fold the open end in toward the center fold
Flip it over and do the same thing on the other side
Open the piece of paper up fully, orienting it vertically on the flat surface in front of you
You will see the folds have created 8 boxes on the paper
Cut up the center fold line up to the uppermost horizontal fold but not beyond. The paper will look like a pair of pants.
Fold the paper in half vertically again as if you are folding one pants leg on top of the other.
Take one “pants leg” and fold it up toward the top on the folds

Flip the booklet over and fold the other “leg” up toward the top. This time you will have to fold opposite the folds as you go up. for example if a fold is a mountain fold, fold it into a valley.

(You can see me help Sonia with this in the video.)

Then orient your booklet like a little book with the page opening on the right.

Decorate your cover.

Put the journal in your pocket and hit the town!

Optional: You will notice that the center pages of the booklet are the top of the “pants” and are attached with a fold at the top. You can glue these together with a glue stick if you like, but it is not necessary. I don’t glue them in the video or when I make these journals.

Find the video tutorial at: <https://vimeo.com/84173827>