

# Paper Bag Nature Journal

By Rob Beadel, Arkansas Project Learning Tree  
and similar to PBSKids Wild Kratts Wildlife Journal

<http://www-tc.pbskids.org/outdoors/assets/pdf/journal.pdf>



## **Materials:**

- two lunch-size paper bags
- yarn or string
- blank paper (computer or construction)
- scissors
- tape
- hole punch

## **Instructions:**

1. Take two small lunch bags: one is the front cover, the other the back.
2. Punch two holes along the same LONG side of the lunch bag that will be the back cover. These holes will be your template for the rest of your journal.
3. Take 5 sheets of your paper (computer or construction) and fold each one in half along the long edge (the long edge should now be the shorter edge) and then cut them down the fold. You should now have 10 sheets of paper. (You can do more if you want, or less, depends on what you have and how much you want to put in.)
4. Line up 5 of your papers with the long edges all flush and put the hole-punched back cover over them and put an "X" where the holes are then take the back cover off and punch the holes. (Or you can just hole punch through the holes.) NOTE: make sure you keep a firm grip on the paper, so the holes all line up.
5. Take the last 5 papers and do the same thing as above.
6. Now take the front cover lunch paper bag and line the template up to punch holes in it.

Assembling the journal! Stack the pieces in the following order

- a. One the table, put the back cover, then all the paper, then the front cover.
7. Make sure all the holes are on the same side and line up.
  8. Using the yarn or string, tie the booklet together.
  9. You can use two small pieces and tie a bow (or double knot) at each hole BUT be careful that you do not tighten the first knot all the way, leave it loose so the pages can turn!

OR you can thread a larger piece down through the top hole, over to the bottom hole, up through the bottom hole, and tie the two ends together on the top of the journal so you fold the cover and the sheets over the knot.

Now for the fun part!

10. Get out your crayons, colored pencils, watercolor paints, craft tape and have fun decorating the cover of your nature journal!

## **Alternative**

- A. If you don't have paper lunch bags but do have one large paper grocery bag (with or without handles).
- B. Cut the front & back large panels out of the bag, recycling the sides and bottom of the bag.
- C. With one of the large side panels you just cut out from the large paper grocery bag, using the computer/construction paper you just cut in half, FOLD the bottom of the large panel up towards the top of the panel, making sure the grocery bag panel covers all of the paper and goes about a ½ inch past the loose paper.

- D. Once you have where the fold should be, remove the loose paper and crease the paper bag
- E. Tape only the two side edges to make a pocket.
- F. Now repeat these steps for the second large panel from the grocery paper bag so you have a second pocket that will be the back cover.
- G. Punch two holes in one of these pockets, as this will be your template for the rest of your journal.
- H. Now return to the original "What to Do" at Step # 4 and continue to make your nature journal.

#### Additions

- Adding a sturdy writing surface to your journal:
  - use a clipboard
  - add a piece of cardboard from a shipping box to the back of your journal, just inside your back cover by using your loose paper as a template cut out a piece about ¼ inch larger on each side, then line up the holes and tie it in.
- If you use a binder or bag clip on the top of the front pocket, things like pencils, crayons, erasers, won't fall out if you fold the top of the pocket over and clip it closed.