

## Activity 9 (Natural History)

# Nature Boxes

Suitable for ages 5 plus with some adult help.



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Learning and Outreach Role  
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This perfect-for-a-rainy-day activity encourages you to find out more about the bits and pieces that you pick up when you are out in nature. You will also find out how to display them in an attractive way so you can enjoy them, as we would in the Museum!



You will need:

- finds from nature (flowers, leaves, lichen, seashells, seeds, feathers etc)
- shoebox lid or similar
- sheet of craft or packing foam
- pins
- paper & pen (or typewriter!)
- nature books or internet for reference

1. Firstly, you need to measure your box and cut your foam so that it fits in the bottom. You can decorate the outside of your box with paper or paint if you would like.
2. Next, select 6-10 of your nature objects and arrange them on the foam in your box. Do you know what everything is? Can you use books, websites or even an app to help you identify anything you are unsure of? Have a look at the Woodland Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry and Land Scotland's websites as a start, we have also found the iNaturalist app is really useful!
3. Once you know what all of your finds are, you need to create little labels with their names – you can do this on the computer, with stamps, by hand or using an old typewriter. We had great fun with the typewriter – it's amazing what you find lurking in the attic!
4. Now for the tricky bit that you might need an adult to help with – securing everything with pins, the foam lining of your box gives them something to stick in to. Light things like feathers may only need a pin or two to keep them in place, but a limpet shell might need 3-4 around the edges. Don't forget to leave space by each object in which to pin your name label. The beauty of using the pins and foam is that you can easily add and change what you have on show!



**Pinning**



**Finished Nature Boxes**