





WORLD ACTIVITY SITE [30 MINUTES]

Eco Art



-  **Eco-Question:** Why do people plant seeds?
-  **Spiritual Question:** Why does God plant seeds?
-  **What will kids do?** Kids create a temporary sculpture using found items in nature.
-  **Why is this activity important?** God plants seeds of love in people all around the world. It's for everyone. In creating a temporary sculpture that is susceptible to the elements, we can delight in creation without taking it for ourselves. It's for everyone.

DAY 1

Get Ready

Items found in your area, such as:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> pine cones | <input type="checkbox"/> leaves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rocks | <input type="checkbox"/> twigs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sticks | <input type="checkbox"/> grass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pea pods | <input type="checkbox"/> branches |

Get Set (Up)

Find an outdoor space to build your sculptures. Walk around to be sure it's free of poison ivy or oak. If possible, allow kids to scavenge for items. If that's not possible at your VBS site, before VBS invite families to bring in items, and designate a space near the sculpture site to deposit them.

Go Green!

The goal of this activity is less about a finished product and more about a collaborative creative process—think sand castle. Each age operates at a different level, so work as a facilitator to help connect between the ages. A five-year-old who likes to pull grass blades can be paired with a fourth grader to craft a thatched roof.

To “make a sculpture” is pretty ambiguous. To put this in kid’s terms you might say, **“Let’s see what we can make out of these rocks and twigs.”** **“What does this branch remind you of?”** **“Lay it down in the middle and see what we can turn it into.”**

Leave things undefined and open to possibility. Remember, it’s not about the finished product but about the collaborative process.

1. Define the space you’ll be working in.
2. Give site-specific instruction about where they’ll find supplies and what they should not use. (Use anything in this pile, avoid the landscape rocks, don’t eat the fruit off that tree . . .)
3. Work together to make a sculpture using only natural items.

Take breaks along the way to talk about what’s happening. **Who are you working with? How did it feel when that gust of wind blew down that rock you balanced? How did that rock get here? Where is that leaf blowing off to?**

Move to Act!

Lie down and look at the clouds or through branches to think about how you can help create something good and fun for others. What do you see now? What will they look like in an hour? In three months? In a year? **When we discover that God’s love is a seed in us, it connects us with something bigger than ourselves. God’s love is a seed in each of us, and that seed connects us with all of creation all around the world. Sit outside with a family member or a friend and identify all the works of art you see in God’s creation.**

greenER:

Use only items already on the ground. Don’t pull up anything living before it’s ready to go.

greenEST:

Avoid working on chemically treated lawns. No matter how green it appears, it’s not the greenest option!

Leader Tip

Throughout the week come back and check on the sculpture, especially if there’s any severe weather. Add to it, remake, reform, reshape—in general, ReNew.