

LET'S MAKE A PLANT PRESS

PLANT PRESS SUPPLIES:

- ◇ three sheets of newspaper
- ◇ four heavy books
- ◇ at least one plant

DECORATING SUPPLIES:

- ◇ a blank piece of paper of your choice
- ◇ a glue stick
- ◇ optional: a picture frame

PICKING A PLANT:

- ◇ make sure your plant isn't from someone else's garden or a public space
- ◇ avoid using plants that feel waxy
- ◇ the plant shouldn't be too wet or it'll take longer to dry
- ◇ flowers make the best presses

LET'S GET PRESSING:

1. Find a plant to use for pressing. Ask permission before taking any plants.
2. Gently pick your plant pieces to use. Carefully twist flowers and leaves, picking them from their stems. Ask for help if needed.
3. Pick a space to make your plant press. You will need to store it there for 5-7 days.
4. Place two heavy books down on the surface. Place one sheet of folded newspaper on top.
5. Take one sheet of newspaper and open it vertically so it is very tall. Keep it closed horizontally so it is not very wide. Put it on top of your newspaper and two books.
6. Place your plant inside the newspaper. Place your flower face down on the newspaper so the bottom is facing up. Do not place them in the fold of the newspaper, but on either side of the fold, centered in the middle.
7. Close your newspaper. Make sure you do it gently so the flowers or leaves do not move.
8. Add another sheet of folded newspaper on top of your newspaper with the plants inside.
9. Place the two books on top. Your plant press will look like a sandwich: The newspaper with your plants in the middle, a folded newspaper sheet on the top and bottom, and two heavy books on each side of the folded newspaper sheets.
10. Let your plant press sit for at least five days so your plants have enough time to dry out.
11. When your plants are dry, gently peel them away from the newspaper.
12. Time to get crafty! Apply your glue stick to the piece of paper that you picked out. Only put glue where you want to stick your plants down.
13. Stick your dried plants on the areas with glue.
14. Your work of art is done! Put it in a frame if you'd like!