



Naturalist's Binoculars

Craft Activity

Visitors become familiar with one of the tools a naturalist uses to study animals by making paper binoculars.

SCIENCE TOPICS

Animal habitats
Science tools
Recycling

PROCESS SKILLS

Observing
Investigating
Designing & making

GRADE LEVELS

3 yrs & up

TIME REQUIRED

Advance Preparation



30 minutes

Set Up



5 minutes

Activity



30 minutes

Clean Up



10 minutes

SUPPLIES

- Clean & empty toilet paper tubes (2 per student)
- Colored masking tape
- Colored construction paper
- Hole punch (1 per group)
- Yarn 2 feet per student
- Markers (1 per group)
- Optional: Stickers

ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Collect the cardboard tubes and other supplies.
- Cut the yarn into 2-ft. pieces.

SET UP

- Set up 2 or 3 stations on your table.
- At each station put out markers, a hole punch and tape.
- Place tubes, yarn, and construction paper in the center for everyone to access.
- Make an example to work through the activity and for display.

PROCEDURE

1. Cut construction paper to wrap around tubes.
2. Cover the tubes with construction paper and tape.
3. Punch holes in outer edges of both tubes.
4. Tie the ends of the string through the holes.
5. Decorate with markers and stickers.
6. Use the binoculars to spot animals in the exhibit.

INTRODUCING THE ACTIVITY

Today we are making pretend binoculars. Have you ever used real binoculars before? Did you know that binoculars are a tool used by scientists who study nature? These scientists are called naturalists. They use binoculars to look for animals that are far away, for instance, up in the sky, in trees, or on a mountainside. Binoculars help them learn things about the animals that are far away by making the animal seem close up. When naturalists see animals close up, he or she can learn things like the color of the animal's fur or how the animal moves.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask for student observations. There is no correct answer. Let students guide the discussion and present their hypotheses before discussing explanations.

Why do you think binoculars might be a good tool to have when you are outside?

What kind of animals do you think you will see when you look through them?

How many animals can you find?