How to Make a Nature Walk Album

A walk in the woods, your backyard, a nearby park, or along the beach is a great way to explore what the land offers to us and other creatures. Take a walk with your family. Along the way, pick up things from nature that excite or interest you—bark, berries, leaves, flowers, acorns, small seashells, etc. When you get back home, examine your collection and pick four of your favorite things to put in your album. Then make your Nature Walk Album by following these instructions.

Make the Album: You will need four envelopes; paper for the cover; scissors; a hole punch; raffia, cord, or ribbon for binding the album; writing tools; and paper to make a label for the cover. (Remember, reusing paper products is a great way to help the environment.)

1. Stack the envelopes and cut off the tops so that they are all the same height. (They can be of different lengths.)
2. For the album’s cover, cut a piece of paper so that it is big enough to cover the longest envelope. Place it on the top of your stack.
3. Using the hole punch, make a hole in the center of your album’s left edge (half an inch in from the edge). Punch another hole one inch above the center hole and a third hole an inch below the center hole.
4. Weave the raffia, cord, or ribbon through the three punched holes—in any fashion—so that it binds the album pages together.
5. Make a label for your album cover. Write your name, the place of the walk, and the date.
6. Label the four envelopes for the four items from your walk. Write what the item is and why you chose it. Put the items into the envelopes.
7. Write something about yourself to create an “About the Author” paragraph on the back cover of the album.

Share your Album: Share this album with friends and family and get their feedback. Would they have picked the same items you did? Why? Why not? What would they have picked instead? Post pictures of your completed Nature Walk Album on the Smithsonian Heritage Programming Facebook page.