

Stone Paperweights

Time: 1 hour Any Season Indoor/Outdoor

Paperweights make delightful decorations for the home and great gifts for friends and family. Let's use the natural beauty of garden plants and stones to create our own paperweights.



Let's Gather:

newspaper

soap and warm water

flower petals

a smooth stone that is heavy enough to hold down papers but small enough to hold in one hand

blades of grass

leaves

a paintbrush

decoupage (found in craft supply stores)

glue

ALWAYS ASK A GROWN-UP BEFORE YOU START

Let's Get Started:

1. Cover a table with newspaper.
2. Wash your stone with soap and warm water. Let it dry completely.
3. While your stone is drying, walk around the garden and gather flower petals, blades of grass, and leaves that can bend easily. You will use these to make a design on your stone.
4. Once your stone is dry, arrange the petals, leaves, and grass blades on your stone to make an image that you like. You can make a picture of something or create a whimsical design.
5. Set the flower petals and blades of grass aside. Use the paintbrush to cover the entire top of the stone with a thin layer of decoupage.
6. Place the petals and blades of grass onto your rock in the design that you created. If they do not stick to the decoupage, use the glue to make sure they lie flat.
7. With the paintbrush, paint decoupage over your entire stone again, this time gently painting right over the flower petals and blades of grass.
8. Let the decoupage dry completely. Add more layers of decoupage until all of the petals and grass blades lie flat. Allow each layer to dry before adding another one.

Tip

You now have a paperweight that will bring the garden's beauty into any room!

From Life Lab's Kids' Garden Activity Cards www.lifelab.org