

# NATURE ACTIVITIES

## PAINTED ROCK BUGS

Have kids? Check out this project that involves creating bugs from and painting rocks! After the making is complete, game of Tic-Tac-Toe can be played with the Rock Bugs!

### PART ONE - GATHER ROCKS!

This part of the activity is a time to get outside and find some rocks! River rocks are smooth and great for painting on! If you can find smooth rocks elsewhere, go for it!

**Resources/materials needed:** Sturdy bag, box or basket, gardener gloves, outdoor clothes, natural space, river or creek, backyard with rocks to find

**Skills:** Cognitive, Motor Skills, Environmental Appreciation, Hand-Eye Coordination, Technical Skills, Observation

### DIRECTIONS:

**Step 1:** Pick your spot! If you have access to a rocky stream or river where there may be a few rocks that would work for this project. Also, you may have some in your very backyard! Go on a walk and scope out the scene!

**Step 2:** Go out searching for rocks in the space you picked. Instruct the children to gather rocks they can see becoming bugs. A variety of sizes is welcome! Make sure they look for smooth rocks, but they can very well use more textured rocks, it is just more challenging to paint. Maybe the bug they are creating has a more textured body!

**Step 3:** You can make this a race/scavenger hunt of who can find the most appropriate rocks or have them see search for colors. For example, rocks that lean toward purple, blue or brown for example.

**Kid's Reflection:** Talk about your experience. What colors did you see on the stones? What were the textures? Did you see any bugs?



Photo Credit: Crafts By Amanda



Photo Credit: Ford House



Photo Credit: Ingleby Rocks

## PART TWO - PAINT!

Want to do some painting with your kids and even work on your own painting skills? This activity is all about making creating art on a natural object. Self-expression is encouraged!

**Resources/materials needed:** Rocks, craft or acrylic paint, brushes, water, paint mixing surface (paper plate, wax paper, etc), and rag or paper towel, googly eyes, glue

**Skills:** Cognitive, Motor, Hand-Eye Coordination, Environmental Appreciation, Creativity, Self-Expression, Whole Brain-Development

### DIRECTIONS:

**Step 1:** Clean the rocks with soap and water and let dry. Pick your rock and decide what kind of bug you would like it to be. Is this based on a real bug or are you creating your own? If you are taking inspiration from a bug, a photo of it would help in creating from observation. If your kids want to use their imaginations, let them create a cool little rock bug of their choice!

**Step 2:** Prepare a painting area. Put down cardboard, newspaper or parchment paper. Provide a mixing area, wax paper or a paper plate works well. Teach kids how to mix color. Yellow and blue make. If painting from observation, have them try to mix the color that they see. They also can explore imagination through paint.

**Step 3:** Prepare a painting area, put down cardboard or parchment paper. Provide a mixing area, wax paper or a paper plate works well. Teach kids how to mix color. Yellow and blue make. If painting from observation, have them try to mix the color that they see. Or just let them explore through paint. Encourage using different patterns and creating the illusion of textures.

**Step 4:** After the rocks are painted, let dry and then you can choose to glue googly eyes or put stickers etc. These can be played with as Nature Play, put in gardens, placed as indoor decoration, or anything you see fit. You can make caterpillar looking bugs by placing multiple rocks together. If you make enough of similar looking ones, you can take part in playing Bug Rock Tic-Tac-Toe!



Photo Credit: Made and Sould by Lynn



Photo Credit: Rogue Family



Photo Credit: Nellie Bellie



Photo Credit: Entertainment Junction

**Kid's Reflection:** Talk about your experience. What colors mixed together into what color? Were there any challenges? What bugs did you make? Where are the bugs going to live? What do you enjoy about painting?

## PART THREE - TIC-TAC-TOE

Want to play a fun game with your rock bugs? How about Tic-Tac-Toe? This is Nature Play!

**Resources/materials needed:** Cardboard, marker, sidewalk chalk, pavement, plywood (something to draw the format on)

**Skills:** Cognitive, Motor, Hand-Eye Coordination, Sensory, Environmental Appreciation

### DIRECTIONS:

**Step 1:** Set up this project by placing a large piece of cardboard or plywood on the ground outdoors and draw a Tic-Tac-Toe grid. You can decorate this board too with stickers and markers. If there is pavement, you can create the Tic-Tac-Toe board with sidewalk chalk.

**Step 2:** The game takes 2 styles of rock bugs, at least 5 bugs for each team. If they don't all match, there could be a slight mark you can make on one team's rocks that is recognizable.

**Step 3:** The game works by going back and forth by placing a rock in a square. The first one to get 3 of their own rocks in a row wins the round! Play as many rounds as that and determine the winner. Have a fun prize such as a sticker!

Hope you had fun!

**Kid's Reflection:** Talk about your experience. Do you like playing Rock Bug Tic-Tac-Toe? Do enjoy working with all natural materials? Did your board work well? What would you do differently?

#### Resources:

[roguevalleymessenger.com/event/bee-storytime-and-rock-painting-crafternoon/](https://roguevalleymessenger.com/event/bee-storytime-and-rock-painting-crafternoon/)  
[twitter.com/InglebyRocks/status/1001038549850914816](https://twitter.com/InglebyRocks/status/1001038549850914816)  
[entertainmentjunction.com/3-easy-summer-crafts-kids-will-love/garden-rock-caterpillar/](https://entertainmentjunction.com/3-easy-summer-crafts-kids-will-love/garden-rock-caterpillar/)  
[nelliebellie.com/garden-rock-caterpillar/](https://nelliebellie.com/garden-rock-caterpillar/)



Photo Credit:PA Country Crafts



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<https://www.fordhouse.org/event/07132017/hidden-rock-painting-artforkidshub.com/teaching-kids-how-to-draw-from-life-how-to-draw-a-tree/>  
<https://pacountrycrafts.com/blog/painted-bug-rocks>