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#WildThings

# Wild Things

An Activity Booklet for  
Magical Outdoor Adventures

Jo Schofield & Fiona Danks



## Make a magic witch or wizard wand

If you want to turn your sister green or make your brother disappear, you'll need your own wand. First, find a stick that feels right in your hand—each type of wood has different magical qualities—then decorate it with special wild materials that mean something to you.

Add magic to your wand by scraping off the bark and sticking on wild materials or by whittling, painting, and polishing. The more you work on your wand, the more magic it will hold, and the more personal it will be to you. Here are a few wild wand ideas:

*You will need:*

**A stick, double-sided tape, glue or modeling clay, paints, and wild materials.**

A wand doesn't have to be straight. Try a curvy wand with a magical handle bound with twine.

Paint your wand to match your broomstick. Perhaps this will make them both more powerful.

You could add feathers, shells, and even a bleached bird's skull to ward off evil magic.

Wrap double-sided tape around your wand. Stick on magical wild materials: perhaps feathers for flight, shells for protection, lichen for magic growing power, or a sprig of wild herbs to keep you healthy.

Use a wood-burning (or "pyrography") tool to burn patterns or animal pictures into the wood.

When you invite your witch and wizard friends around, insist they all put their wands in a pot so nobody casts a spell by mistake!







## Make a wizard's staff

Wands are good for small-scale magic, but if you want to try out some BIG spells or compete with other wizards, you'll need a much more powerful staff. Choose a large sturdy stick that is almost as tall as you. The magical monster staff on the right has a collar decorated with thorns, a fluffy beard, shell and acorn eyes, feathers for hair, and a spiky conker headdress.

## Sea wizards


To make a beach staff for a sea wizard, hunt for driftwood, pounded and shaped by the sea to give it extra magic. Decorate with shells, sea-washed glass, feathers, and seaweed.

The amulet around this staff's neck contains a magic spell written on birch bark paper (see page 77).

### Safety tips

- Be careful when using knives or wood-burning tools! Ask for a grown-up's help.





## Flower-fairy badges

Wearing a flower-fairy badge is a way of showing fairies that you are their friend, so they are less likely to hide from you.

*You will need:*

**Thin cardboard, safety pins, double-sided tape, leaves, feathers, and petals.**

Use colorful petals from lots of different flowers.

1. Cut the cardboard into the shape of a body and head, then cover one side of the body with double-sided tape.



2. Draw a face on the front of the head and tape a safety pin to the back of it.

3. Tape some wings—perhaps leaves, feathers, or petals—onto the fairy's back.

4. Create a wonderful outfit by adding colorful petals to the tape on the front.





# Wild elf challenge

Not all magical creatures need to be carefully made at home. On an adventure, quickly create some elves and fairies using wild materials and modeling clay.

You will need:

Modeling clay, wild materials (such as sticks, nuts, seeds, petals, empty snail shells, and feathers), raffia or string, a penknife, and scissors.

1. Can you find a small stick with arms and legs? If not, you may need to tie some on with string.

2. Wrap some clay around one end of the stick to make the head. Or you may prefer to carve a little face in the wood with a penknife.

3. Add feathers, seeds, leaves, flowers, and other wild materials to make clothes and wings, sticking them on with clay, or using raffia or string.

4. Be sure to use whatever material you can find. So, for a beach elf, you could use driftwood decorated with seaweed and shells.

## Safety tip

- Only use a knife with grown-up help.





# Tiny explorers

Help explorer elves and fearless fairies discover new worlds for themselves in natural sailing boats and rafts. Launch them across a pool, a puddle, a stream, or a tide pool at the seashore.

## Making little boats

Can you send your boats off on a journey and then bring them safely back to shore?

1. Make little boats from bundles of twigs, rushes, or reeds, tied together with string.

2. To make the boats seaworthy, add a keel to stop them tipping and a sail to catch the wind. And remember to check that they float.

3. Tie each boat onto a long piece of string so you can drag them along in the water, bringing them back when you need to.

4. Make a safe place for a stick and clay elf or fairy captain to sit.

You will need:  
**Modeling clay,  
string, and wild  
materials.**







If you can find a yellow waxy leaf, that would be perfect.

## Leaf or bark messages

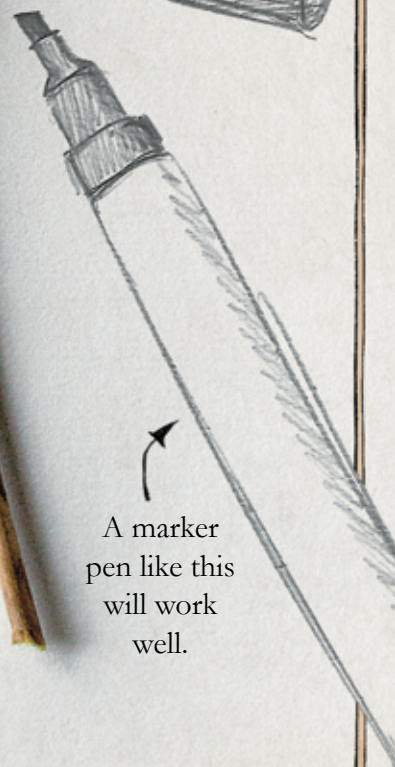
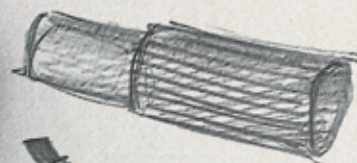
Everyone loves the idea of discovering a message in a bottle washed ashore by the tide. But leaving glass or plastic bottles in the wild world is not a good thing to do, as they can harm wild creatures. Here is a better way to send wild world secret messages.

1. Use a permanent marker pen to write a message for the fairies or elves on a tough, waxy leaf or some papery bark.
2. Make the leaf into a sail or a flag for your boat.
3. Set your message boat adrift on the water. Perhaps another explorer will discover your message and send you a message in a boat in reply!

### Safety tip

- Always have a grown-up with you when exploring near water.

You will need:  
Leaves, bark,  
and a permanent  
marker.



A marker pen like this will work well.





## Meet the authors

Jo Schofield and Fiona Danks have written a selection of books packed full of activities to inspire children and families to get outdoors, have fun, and discover the wonders of the natural world. Through these titles and their website ([www.goingwild.net](http://www.goingwild.net)), they aim to raise awareness of the many benefits children gain by interacting and reconnecting with wild places—whether up a mountain or in the local park. They also work in partnership with UK environmental and educational organizations and charities, making outdoor play and environmental education more accessible to a wider audience. They both live in Oxfordshire, England, with their families.



**Over 100 more magical outdoor adventures to be had in the book**

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