



Dinosaur Train: Start a Nature Collection

Nature is full of hidden treasures. In this activity, children explore nature and practice early science and math skills by creating a collection of items found in nature and then organizing their collections into categories for display.

What you'll need:

- A local park, backyard, or woods for exploration
- Several plastic or paper bags for collected items
- A shoe box
- Materials to decorate the shoe box (ex: ribbon, construction paper, stickers, etc...)

The Activity:

Collect Nature Items

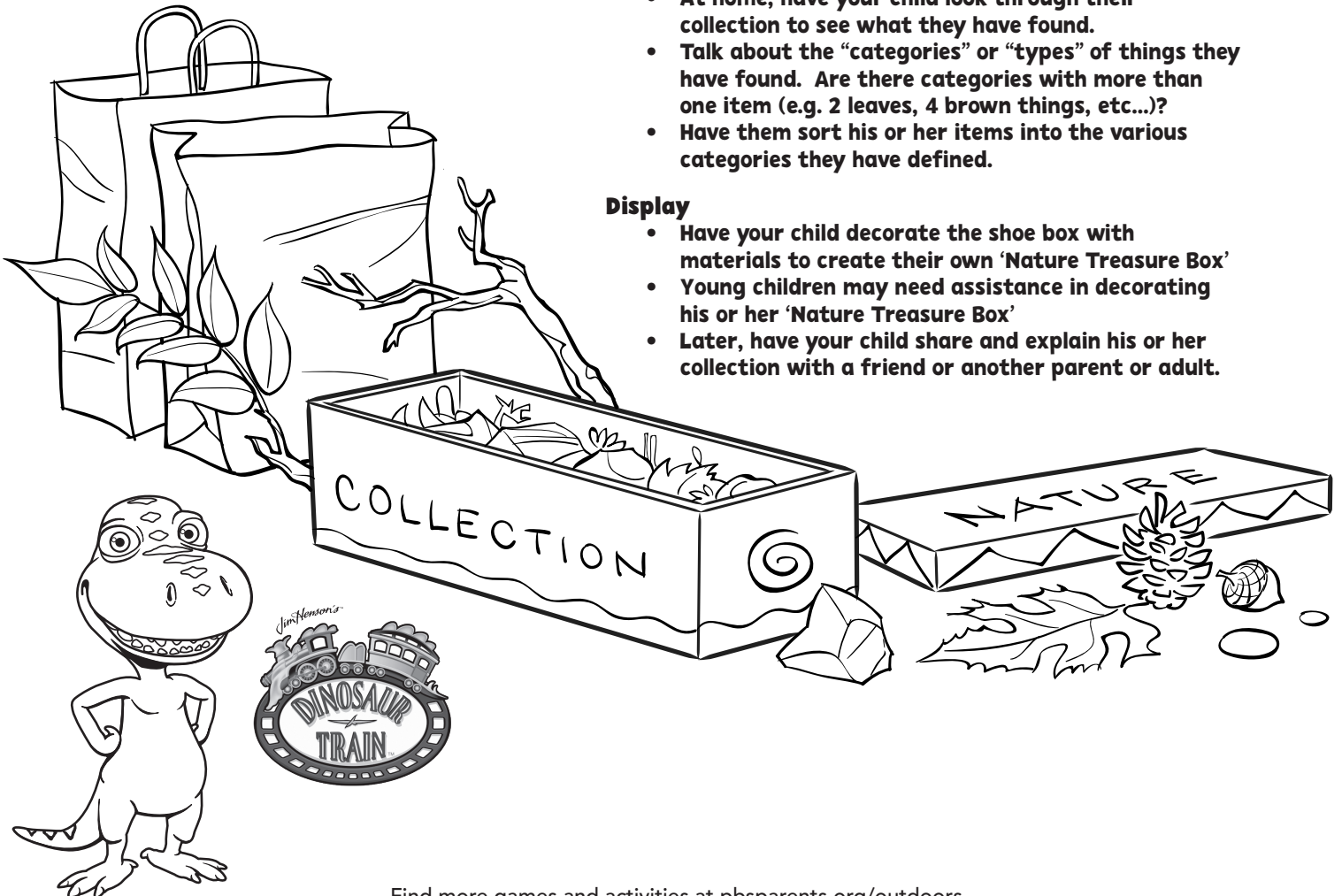
- In your local park, back yard or woods, work with your child to explore and collect items from nature
- Talk to your child about things that they could collect such as twigs, leaves, rocks, acorns, pine cones, feathers, etc.
- Encourage your child to collect a variety of things in several categories (e.g. more than one leaf, more than one twig, etc...)

Sort and Categorize

- At home, have your child look through their collection to see what they have found.
- Talk about the "categories" or "types" of things they have found. Are there categories with more than one item (e.g. 2 leaves, 4 brown things, etc...)?
- Have them sort his or her items into the various categories they have defined.

Display

- Have your child decorate the shoe box with materials to create their own 'Nature Treasure Box'
- Young children may need assistance in decorating his or her 'Nature Treasure Box'
- Later, have your child share and explain his or her collection with a friend or another parent or adult.



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