

Kids Explore!

Make Trees Out of Paper Bags

Twist and bend paper bags to create a forest of trees.

Materials

- ◆ Paper bags (large or small depending on how big you want to make your trees)
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Colored paper scraps — tissue paper works especially well (optional)
- ◆ Glue (optional)

1. Cut the top of your bag into one inch vertical strips running from the opening to about half-way down the bag.

2. Open the bag and stand it up.

3. Grab the bag below the cut strips and twist it down toward the bottom to create the trunk of the tree. The flat end of the bag will be the base of your tree.

4. Twist two bag strips that are next to each other tightly together all the way to their ends. This will be a branch. If you want smaller twigs on this branch, stop twisting about halfway up the strips. Cut the rest of each strip into half inch strips. Twist these narrower strips together to their ends.

5. Do this over and over until you have twisted all of your strips into branches and twigs.

6. Bend and twist your tree to give it personality!

7. Glue on paper leaves — summer green or multi-colored for fall — if you want to dress up your tree even further.

— Thanks to Lynn Brunelle, a writer for the television series *Bill Nye the Science Guy* for the idea that inspired this fun craft!



Nearby Nature, PO Box 3678, Eugene, OR 97403, nearbynature.org

Adapted from *Nearby Nature News Summer 2014*