



Wild Wednesday The Shape of Things Extra Activities MRHI.ORG

Cone Zone – collect a variety of pinecones. Place them in a bag that you can't see through. Reach in the bag and pull out one cone. Study it. Then place it back in the bag. Carefully shake the bag to mix up all the cones. Time yourself to see how quickly you can reach back into the bag without looking and pull out the same cone. Or have a family member reach in the bag and try to pull out without looking the same cone. Take turns. Another variation is to have each person pull out a pinecone then go outside and find the same type of cone lying on the ground or on a tree. This “Cone Zone” photo has a variety of cones from Lodgepole Pine, Limber Pine, Bristlecone Pine, and Blue Spruce. Can you tell which cone is which?



Make a Sun Catcher – green plants need SUNLIGHT to make their own food (photosynthesis). And without green plants, the wildlife in the Mosquito Range area that eats only plants (herbivores) like moose, elk, deer, antelope, or Bighorn sheep, would not survive! Spring is a great time to celebrate the SUN. (Remember to never look directly at the SUN). Get permission to make a simple sun catcher out of old CDs. Tie a loop through a CD using string, yarn, or fishing line and hang it where the sunlight can shine on its surface. Can you see rainbows on the CD surface? Its reflection on the ground? And by the way, what plants do you like to eat (salad, vegetables, fruits)?

Nature Journal – use the “Shape of Things” to compare two different kinds of leaves (cones or flowers). Make notes in your Nature Journal using “**I notice...**,” “**I wonder...**,” “**It reminds me of...**” (from B.E.E.T.L.E.S., Lawrence Hall of Science). You don’t have to know the name of the plants, but you do need to look close. Use all your senses (except probably tasting). Avoid giving your opinion, such as, “I notice the leaf is gross.”

