



MAKE A PLANT PRESS

Build your very own plant press using your backyard explorers kit box.

SUPPLIES

- Backyard Explorers Kit Box or other corrugated cardboard
- Scissors or Box Cutter
- Newspaper
- Rope or Twine
- Various Plants
- Blotting Paper (Optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Step 1* - Carefully cut the lid off the box, removing the sides so you end up with an 8" x 11" rectangular piece of cardboard. Then cut *all* the sides off the remainder of the box creating two 8" x 11" rectangular pieces of cardboard. *Ask an adult for help if needed!*
- Step 2* - Head outside and search for a few leaves or flowers to dry in your plant press. *Only remove two to three leaves or flowers from healthy plants.*
- Step 3* - Cut or fold newspaper the same size as the cardboard and gently lay your specimens flat between the sheets. You can stack several pieces on top of each other. *Do not overlap plants in the newspaper though, as they may not dry well and could get moldy.*
- Step 4* - Sandwich the newspaper between the cardboard pieces. Tie two pieces of twine or yarn around the cardboard to keep the plants in place. Lay your press flat under some books or heavy objects.
- Step 5* - Check on your plants once a day to make sure they are drying out. If necessary, change the newspaper out. You can add a layer of blotting paper between the newspaper layers to help absorb moisture.
- Step 6* - Once the plants are dry, do something fun with them! You can mount them on paper with regular craft glue and put them in a frame. You can also put them in contact paper and create bookmarks. Start a plant collection and put all the mounts in a binder with labels so you know exactly what each species is. Share your collection with friends and family! *Feeling extra creative? Decorate your plant press covers! Draw or paint some plants or create some other nature inspired art.*

