

Nature Collage: Inspired by Jim Reid – Ages 5+

Jim Reid is an artist who looks at the forms, structures, and sentiments present in nature.

Taking inspiration from local geological features such as the Niagara Escarpment and the Canadian Shield, Reid created a series of artwork that used a mix of materials and techniques to reflect the natural world.

In his 1994 work *Ancient Silence*, he applied layers of paint, metal, glass, and fabric, along with natural materials, to reflect a natural location. This layering of different materials, Reid said, was “both a metaphor for natural processes and a tactile equivalent of the site.”

In this activity, you will use pieces of nature to create a collage of a place that has meaning to you!

You Will Need:

- A sheet of White Paper (8.5” x 11”)
- Pencils, Pens, Crayons, or Markers
- White Glue, Glue Stick, or Tape
- Things from nature
(See **Step 1** for how to find them!)



Step 1:

Think about how you see nature in your life and pick a place that is outside that means a lot to you. Is this a place that you like to spend time in? What do you do while you're there? Why do you like to go there? The place you pick can be anywhere. Here are a few examples:

- Your backyard
- A park
- The Soccer Field
- Playground
- Forest or Nature Trail

When you have chosen your natural place, go there for a visit! Look around and collect some small pieces of nature that are part of the space. You could collect things like:

- Fallen leaves
- Fallen flowers or petals
- Small sticks and twigs on the ground
- Pieces of bark

Important! Be careful to leave your natural place the way you found it, for others to enjoy! Don't take things that are green and growing. Look on the ground for fallen things that aren't part of living plants.

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Step 2:

Taking your sheet of paper, begin to draw a your natural place! You could draw the whole space, or just one part of it.

In our example, we drew a backyard at sunset.

As you are drawing, think about how you would like to use the pieces of nature that you have collected. Think about where the pieces came from, and what you will use them for in your drawing.



Step 3:

When you are ready to add your pieces of nature, you can attach them to your drawing with white glue, a glue stick, or tape – whatever you have works best!

In our example, we collected a small stick from a tree and decided to use that as a tree trunk in our drawing.

To attach our stick, we used tape; to attach our leaves, we used white glue.



Step 4:

When you have attached your pieces of nature, finish any last drawing or colouring you would like to do to complete your drawing!

For our example, we added some green leaves to our tree to make it look more full



When you are finished your colouring, look at your nature collage