



**THANKSGIVING  
POINT**

# Classic Summer Camp - 2-6th grade

Camper Notebook

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Thanksgiving Point  
Summer Stay Camps

# Thursday

## Zoom Meeting

*Welcome to Stay Camp!*

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## Activity 1: Ball Maze

*Put your engineering and artistic skills to the test and make a maze out of cardboard and toilet paper rolls for a ball to go through.*

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## Background Info

Engineers and makers often use a simple design process when they create things. This process includes these steps: find a problem to solve, **research** ways to solve the problem, **plan** a design that will solve the problem, **create** the design to bring it to life, **test** the creation to see if it works, and **improve** the creation where it doesn't work right.

## Materials

- Toilet paper or paper towel rolls
- Cardboard/cardboard boxes
- Duct tape or glue
- Bouncy ball (or any ball that fits through the rolls)
- Markers/decorative tape/stickers
- Paper and pencil (optional)

## Step 1

Gather your supplies and set up your design (you could do this by drawing your design out on paper or start putting the paper rolls in their places). Remember your goal is to create a maze out of toilet paper rolls for a ball to go through. Here is an example:



This example is very simple. Maybe yours can be more complex 😊

How can you make this a challenging maze?

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### Step 2

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Start putting your design together. Use tape or glue to attach the rolls to the cardboard.

### Step 3

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Decorate your maze! Use whatever art supplies you would like.

### Step 4

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Do a trial run of your maze. Does it work? Is the ball able to stay in the boundaries?

What changes do you want to make to your maze?

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\*If there are any, go ahead and make them and run the ball through the maze again?

Did your changes do what you wanted?

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\*Remember, engineers and makers often make many trials of their designs before they are finished. It's okay if you need to make many changes to your maze to get exactly what you want!

## Activity 2: At-Home Explosions

*Using household ingredients, you are going to make a volcanic-like explosion right in your own home!*

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### Background Info

A chemical reaction can happen when 2 or more ingredients are mixed. They happen because when the molecules interact with each other, they change. In the chemical reaction you are about to perform, the 2 ingredients generate carbon dioxide gas, which in turn creates a volcanic-like eruption.

### Materials

- Baking soda
- Vinegar
- Cup
- Clay (optional)

And/or

- Lemon juice
- Liquid dish soap
- Spoon or other stirring device

### Step 1

Measure out a spoonful of baking soda and put it in your cup. Get your vinegar ready – you'll be adding it to the baking soda next!

Option: if you have clay, use some to make a volcano shape. Put your baking soda in there.

**What do you think will happen when you add the vinegar to the baking soda?**

Draw or write your prediction here!

### Step 2

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Add a few drops of vinegar to the baking soda. Watch what happens!

What did you observe? Is this the reaction you expected?

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### Step 3

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Try the experiment again with more baking soda! Try it as many times as you'd like and change the amount of baking soda or vinegar each time.

How does the reaction change when you add more baking soda?

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Draw the reactions you saw.

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### Step 4-Optional

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If you have liquid dish soap, lemon juice, and baking soda go ahead and do another similar activity! Here are the steps:

- Add 1 small spoonful of baking soda in a clear cup.
- Add a squirt of liquid dish soap.
- Mix the soap and baking soda together with a spoon or craft stick.

- Pour a big spoonful of lemon juice into the clear cup and watch the chemical reaction!

What happens when you add the lemon juice to the soap and baking soda? How is this experiment similar or different to the baking soda and vinegar one?

### Activity 3: Backyard Scavenger Hunt

*Did you know there is amazing nature to discover in your own backyard? Get ready to go find it!*

#### Background Info

There are many beautiful things to see in nature, and the best part is, you don't have to go very far to enjoy it! In our own backyards and neighborhoods there are a variety of trees, plants, birds, insects, and rocks. -adaptation

#### Materials

- Bag to collect a few items
- Magnifying glass (optional)
- Device to take photos (optional)

#### Step 1

Take a look at this list and head out to your backyard. With a parent's permission, you could also go on a walk to a nearby park or around your neighborhood.

When you are outside, look for these things:

- Find 5 cool rocks (maybe you find one that is really sparkly or has lots of colors on it). Keep your favorites to observe later.
- Find 10 different types of leaves (pick a few of them to take back inside and observe later)
- See if you can find a plant or flower for every color in the rainbow (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet).
- How many different kinds of birds can you see or hear?
- Find at least 1 spider or insect.
- See if you can discover a structure-either manmade or animal made.
- How many different kinds of trees do you see? Which one is the tallest? Shortest? If there are no trees, are there shrubs? Feel the bark on the trees.

Draw or write down the things you found:

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## Step 2

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Take some of the items you collected back inside. Make observations of your items. If you took photos, you could observe those too.

Compare the rocks-are some big and some small? What types of rocks do you think they are? Imagine you are the first scientist to discover these rocks. Come up with names for the different rocks you found based on their features!

Look for patterns and colors in the leaves you found. What are similarities between the different types of leaves? Why might they have lines running through them?

Were you able to find a flower for each color in the rainbow? How do you think flowers get their color? How might plants benefit from having different colors of flowers? What do the flowers you found smell like?

What did the bark feel like on the trees you found? Was the bark smooth or rough?

If you have a magnifying glass, be sure to use it to look closely at the objects. If you don't have one, some smart phones have a magnifying feature you could try.

Make rubbings of the objects you found. Get some paper and a crayon or pencil and put the object under the paper and draw lightly over it. What details can you see when you do this?

What was your favorite object you found in nature? Where did you find it, and what did you like about it?

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What surprised you about the nature you found near your home? If you went to the same places in a month, would you find the same things? Why or why not?

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*Zoom Call*

*Let's Talk about the day!*

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