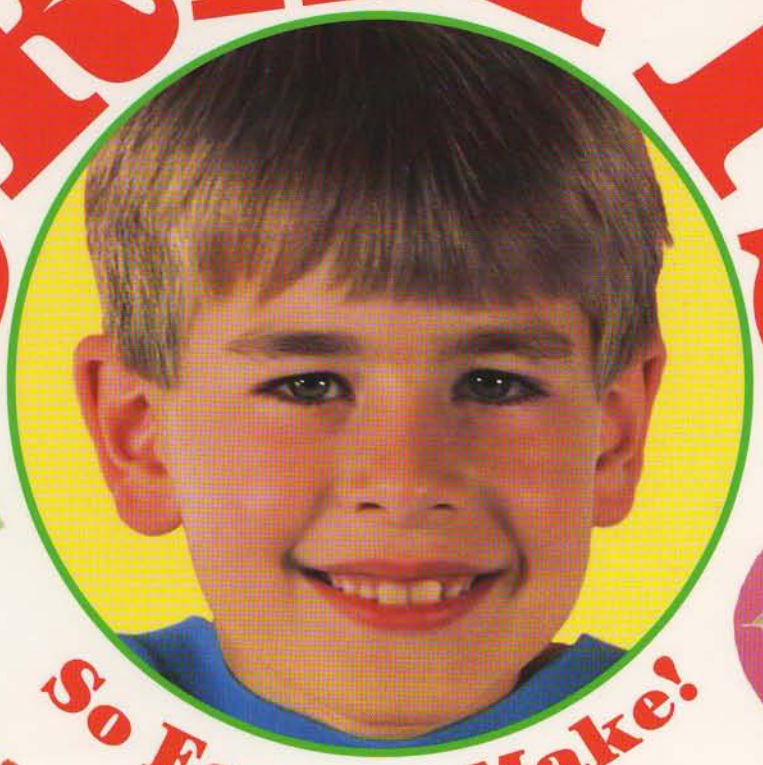
I Can Make Nature CRAFTS



So Easy to Make!

Mary Wallace

I Can Make

Nature

CRAFTS

written and photographed by

Mary Wallace

Owl Books

I Can Make Nature Crafts

Owl Books are published by Greey de Pencier Books Inc.,
179 John Street, Suite 500, Toronto, Ontario M5T 3G5

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Distributed in the United States by Firefly Books (U.S.) Inc.,
230 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1607, New York, NY 10001.

This book was published with the generous support of the Canada Council,
the Ontario Arts Council and the Ontario Publishing Centre.

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Wallace, Mary, 1950–
I can make nature crafts

ISBN 1-895688-48-5 (bound) ISBN 1-895688-49-3 (pbk.)

1. Nature craft – Juvenile literature. I. Title.

TT160.W35 1996 j745.5 C95-932252-3

Design & Art Direction: Julia Naimska

Crafts on the front cover, counterclockwise from upper left:
Grassy Head; Cornhusk Doll; Stone Statue; Nutty Buddies;
Twig Vase; Old-Time Writing; Burr Butterfly.

The crafts in this book have been tested and are safe when conducted as instructed.
The author and publisher accept no responsibility for any damage caused or sustained
by the use or misuse of ideas or material featured in the crafts in *I Can Make Nature Crafts.*

Other books by Mary Wallace

I Can Make Toys
I Can Make Puppets
I Can Make Gifts
I Can Make Games
I Can Make Costumes
How to Make Great Stuff to Wear
How to Make Great Stuff for Your Room

Printed in Hong Kong

A B C D E F

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Let's Make Nature Crafts

You can make all the crafts in this book. It's easy. It's fun. These two pages show the things used to make the crafts in this book, but you can use other things if you like. You'll find most of what you need inside or outside around your house – get permission to use what you find. Pick only what you need, enjoy the natural setting, and have fun!

- corn silk
- cornhusks
- shallow bowl
- tempera paint
- cardboard
- googly eyes
- scissors
- crayons
- dandelion stems

- food color
- shallow dish
- moss
- shells
- small rag
- burr
- twist ties
- vegetable oil
- grass seed

- markers
- play clay
- 1/2 walnut shell
- fresh leaves
- peanut shells
- fine sand
- rubber bands
- water

- feather
- white glue
- fabric
- grocery box
- empty can or jar
- egg carton
- newspapers
- drinking straw
- paintbrush
- acrylic paint

- stocking end
- potting soil
- small jar with lid
- twigs
- stones
- yarn
- paper
- pencil
- grass

TWIG VASE

- empty jar or can
- 2 rubber bands
- twigs
- yarn

1

break twigs about the same length as the can

2

put rubber bands around the can

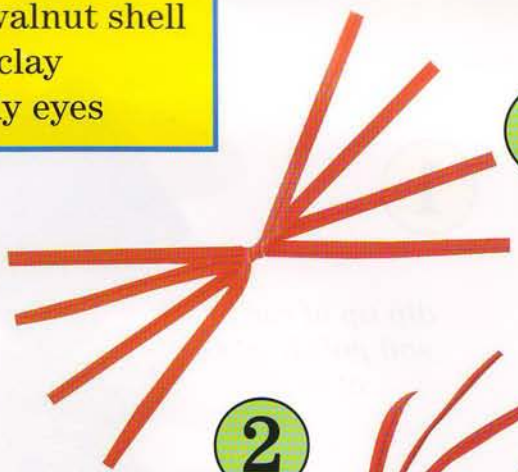
pull out rubber bands and insert twig as shown

repeat until twigs cover outside of can

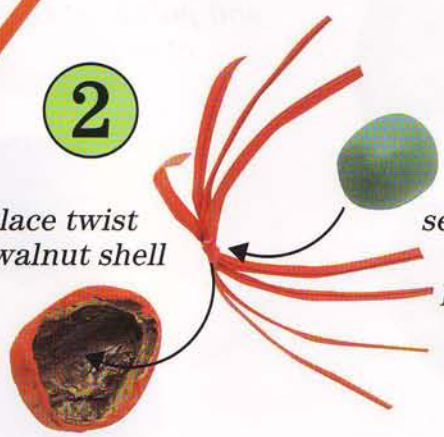
wrap and tie yarn to cover rubber bands

SPIDER

- 4 twist ties
- 1/2 walnut shell
- play clay
- googly eyes



line up twist ties and twist together in middle



place twist in walnut shell

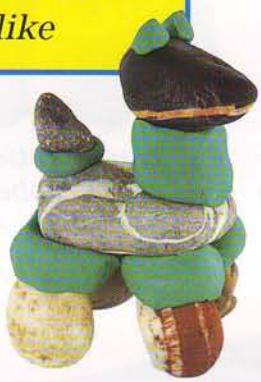
secure with a ball of play clay

press on balls of play clay and googly eyes

attach spider to vase with play clay

STONE STATUES

- small stones
- 1 spoon of vegetable oil
- bowl
- small rag
- play clay
- *decorate as you like*



1

dip tip of rag in oil and polish surface of stones

wipe off excess oil

2
stack stones
and play clay

3
use play clay to hold
stones in place

4
add clay as needed

use twigs and play
clay to decorate

GRASSY HEAD

- stocking end
- potting soil
- twist ties
- rubber bands
- 2 googly eyes
- white glue
- 1 spoonful of grass seed
- shallow bowl
- scissors
- water

1

put several handfuls of soil in stocking end

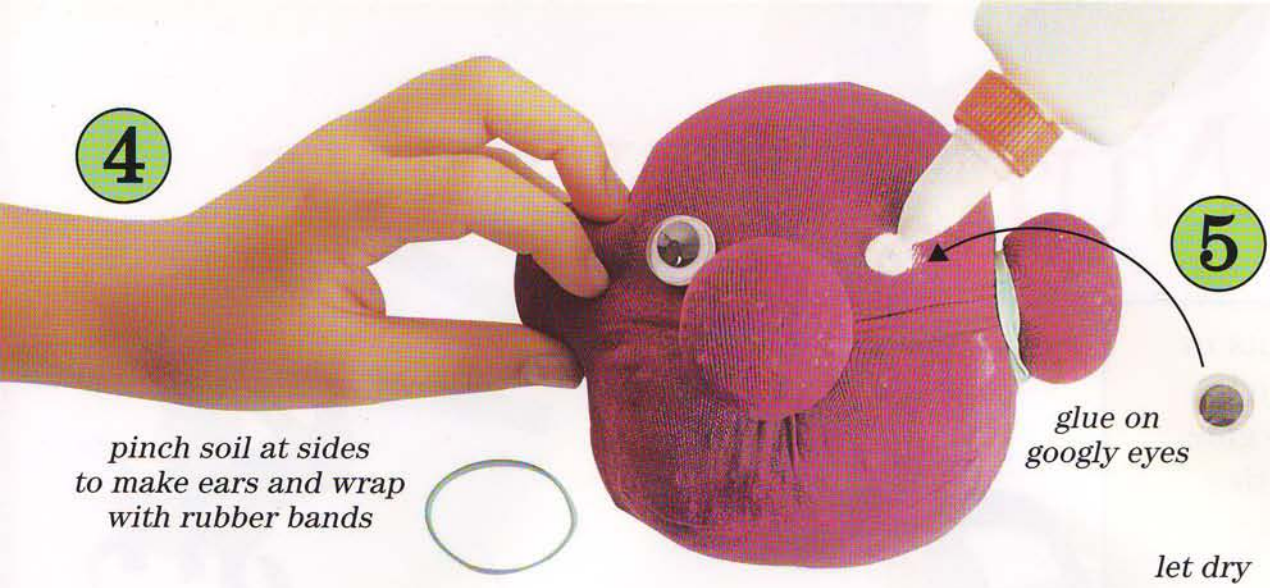
2

shape soil into round head and close with twist tie

back of head

3

pinch soil in stocking to make nose and wrap with rubber band



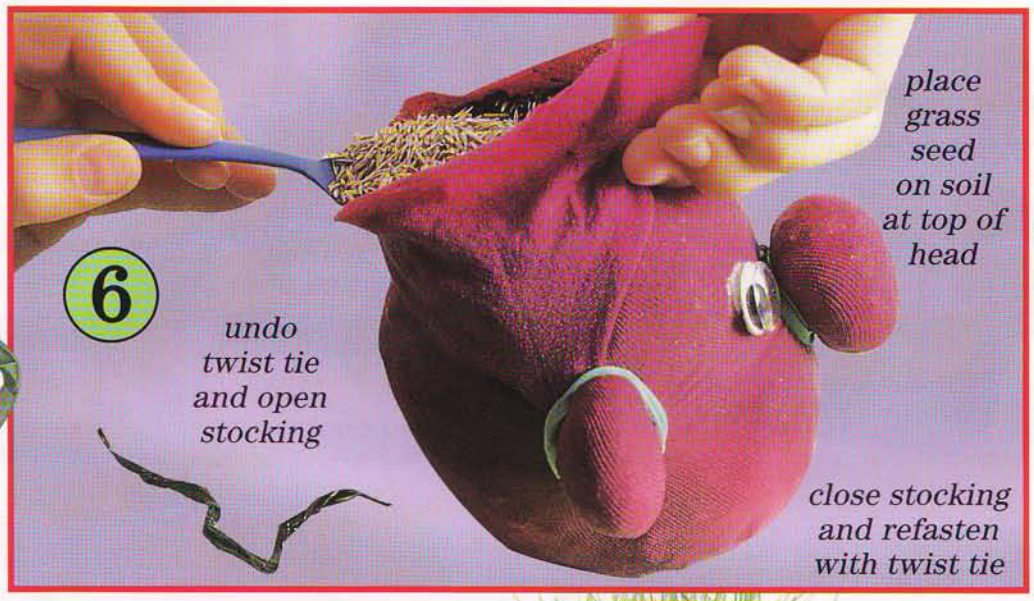
4

pinch soil at sides to make ears and wrap with rubber bands

5

glue on googly eyes

let dry



6

undo twist tie and open stocking

place grass seed on soil at top of head

close stocking and refasten with twist tie

7

shape glasses from twist ties

8

soak stocking head in water for a few minutes

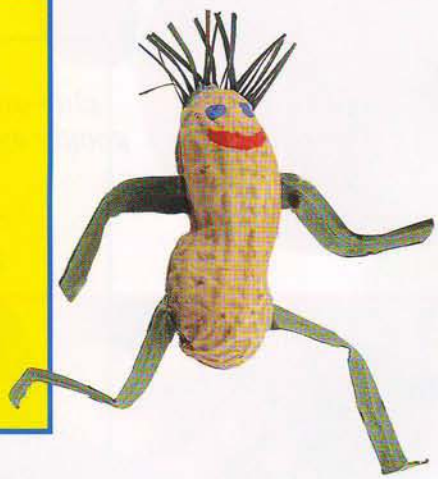
place in dish and keep in sunny place

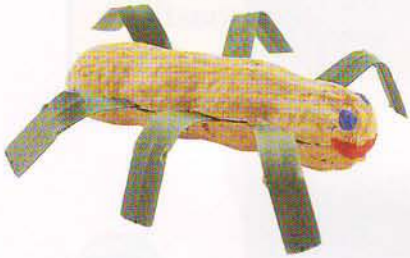
add water every day

In about 10 days the grass will sprout. You can trim the grass hair or leave it long.

NUTTY BUDDIES

- peanuts in the shell
- white glue
- twist ties
- scissors
- grass
- markers
- *decorate as you like*





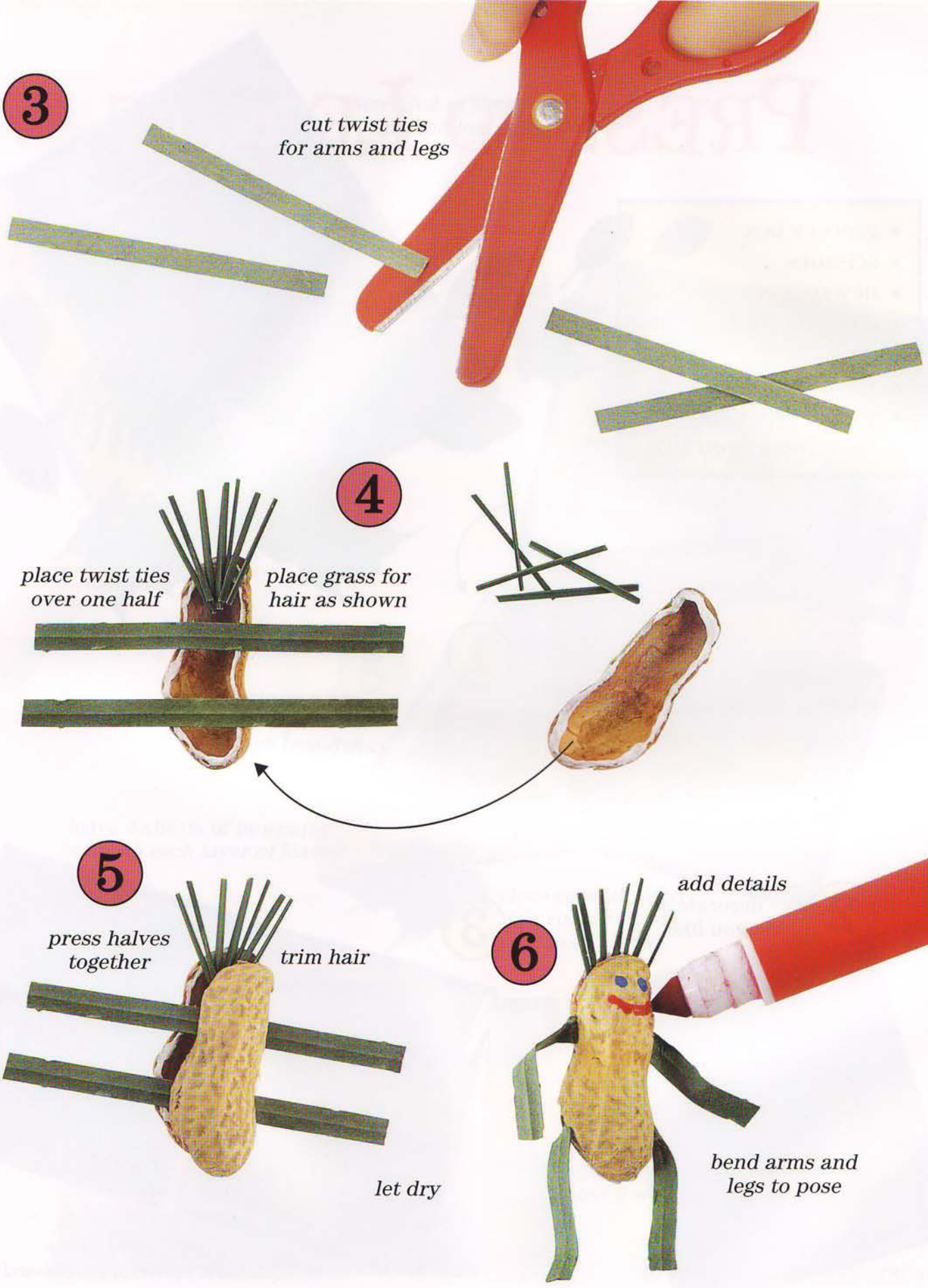
1

crack peanut shell in half

save peanuts to eat later

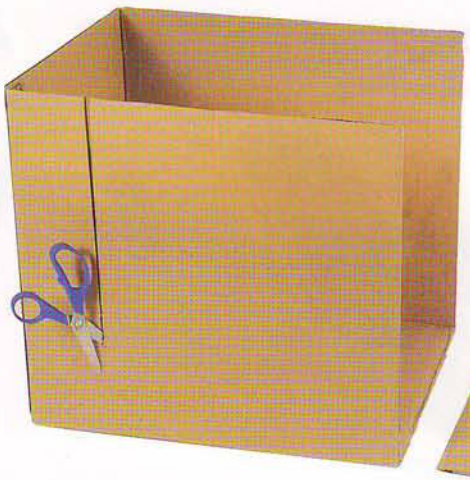
2

glue along edges of both halves of shell


3
cut twist ties
for arms and legs
4
place twist ties
over one half
place grass for
hair as shown
5
press halves
together
trim hair
let dry
6
add details
bend arms and
legs to pose

PRESSED LEAVES

- grocery box
- scissors
- newspapers
- 2 large rubber bands
- tape
- fresh leaves
- *grown-up to help*
- *decorate as you like*



1

ask a grown-up to cut 2 pieces of cardboard from box

2

decorate as you like

3

cut newspapers to fit between cardboard

4

stretch 2 rubber bands around leaf press

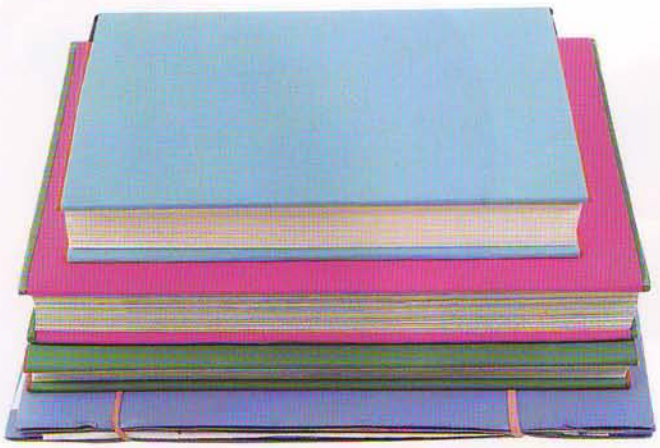
tape rubber bands along one edge

5

press leaves between newspaper

leave 4 sheets of newpaper between each layer of leaves

close carefully and use rubber bands to hold closed



6

put closed leaf press under a pile of books for about 2 weeks

use pressed leaves to decorate your other crafts

Old-Time Writing

- found feather
- disinfectant
- scissors
- cardboard
- acrylic paint
- paintbrush
- pressed leaves
- white glue
- small jar with lid
- play clay
- drinking straw
- water
- food color
- *grown-up to help*

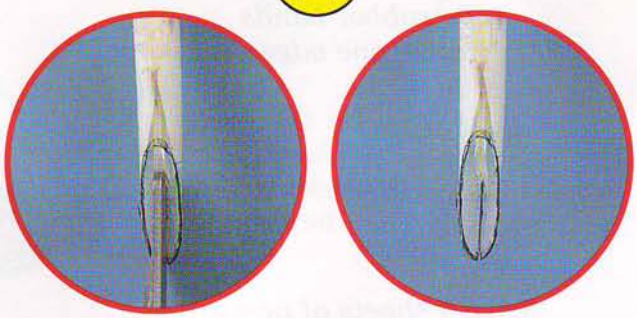
Quill Pen

1

ask grown-up to clean feather with disinfectant

cut off base at an angle

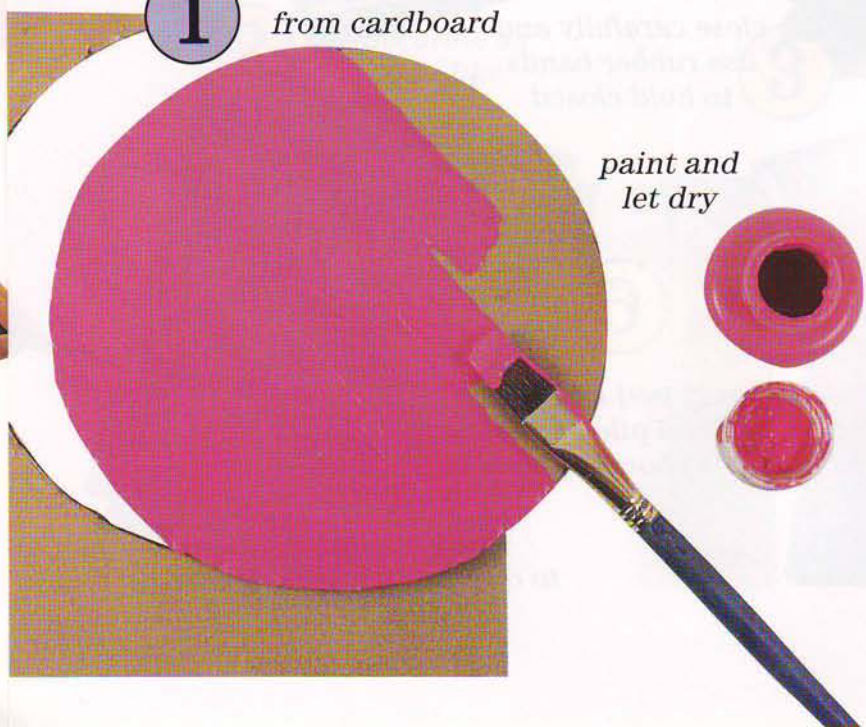
2 *snip slit in point with scissors*



Holder

1 *cut out circle from cardboard*

paint and let dry



2 *glue on pressed leaves*

For pressed leaves, see p. 14.

3

brush over whole surface with white glue

let dry

4

place jar in middle

glue clay to cardboard around base of jar

5

cut piece of straw to hold pen

6

glue down piece of clay and press in straw

Ink

pour water and food color into jar

dip tip of quill pen then write

keep dipping as you write

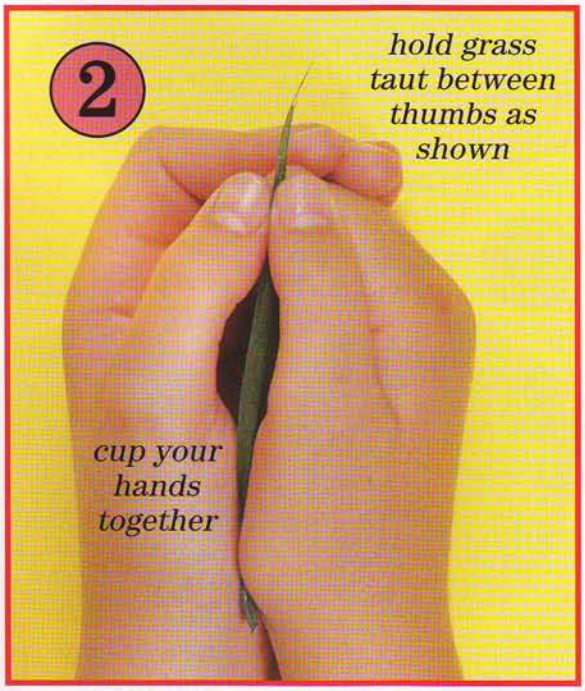
GRASS WHISTLE

- a strong blade of grass
- your hands

1

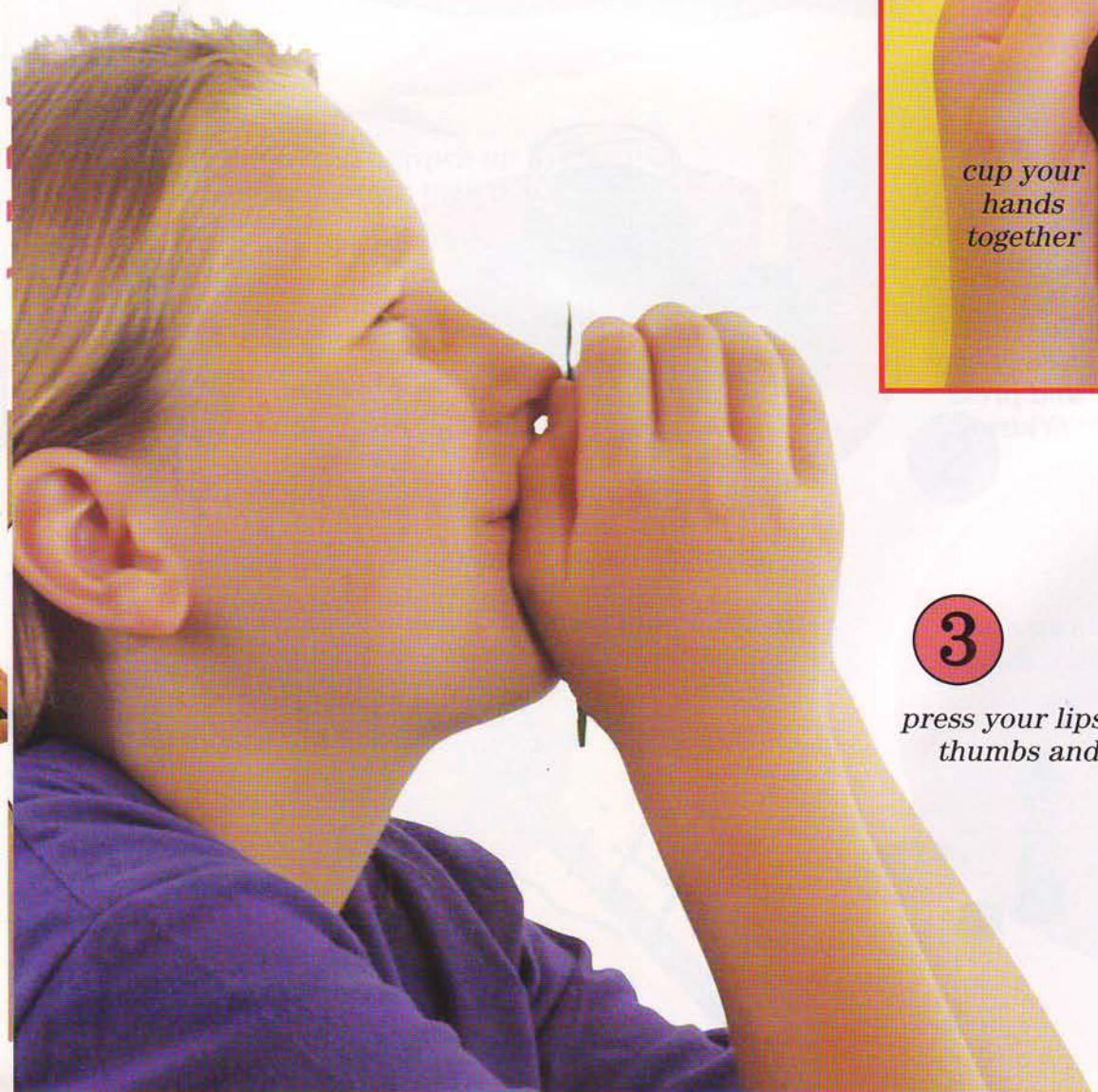
pick a sturdy blade of grass

2



hold grass taut between thumbs as shown

cup your hands together

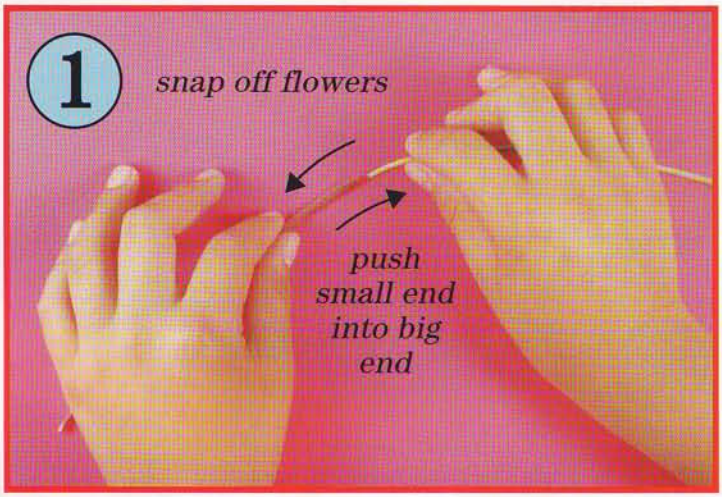


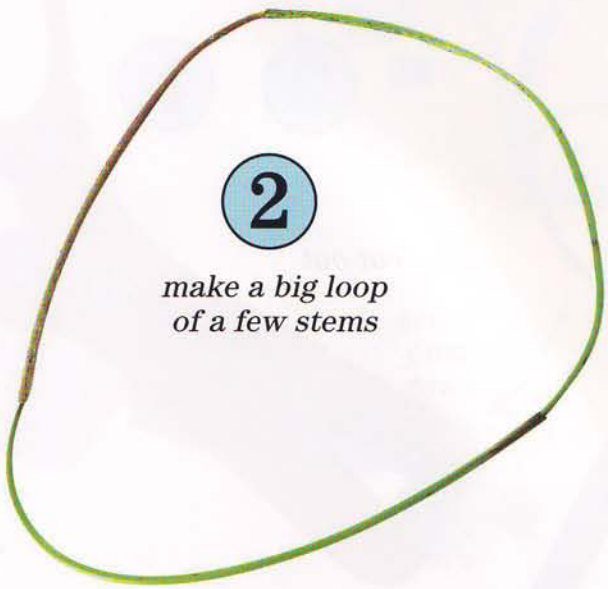
3

press your lips against your thumbs and blow hard

DANDELION LOOPS

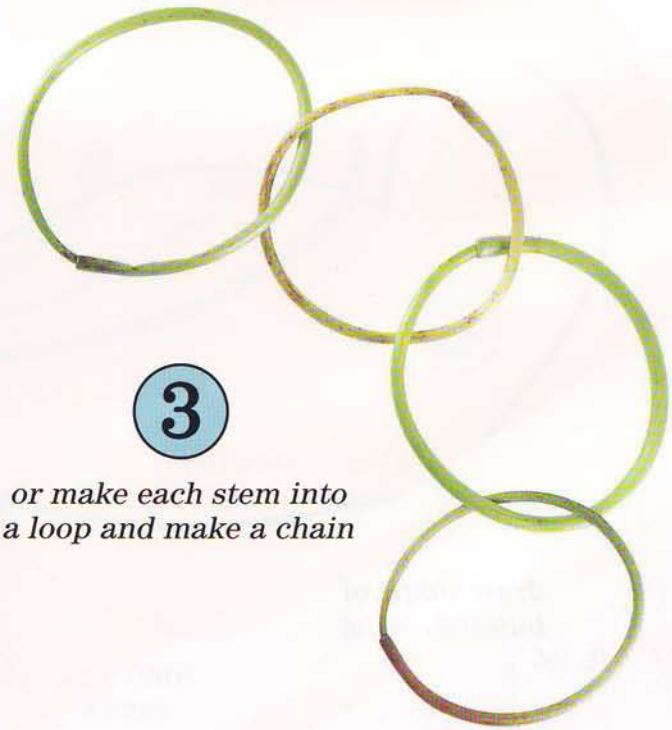
- dandelion stems





2

make a big loop of a few stems



3

or make each stem into a loop and make a chain

BURR BUTTERFLY

- paper
- pencil
- scissors
- crayons
- burr
- white glue
- *decorate both sides as you like*

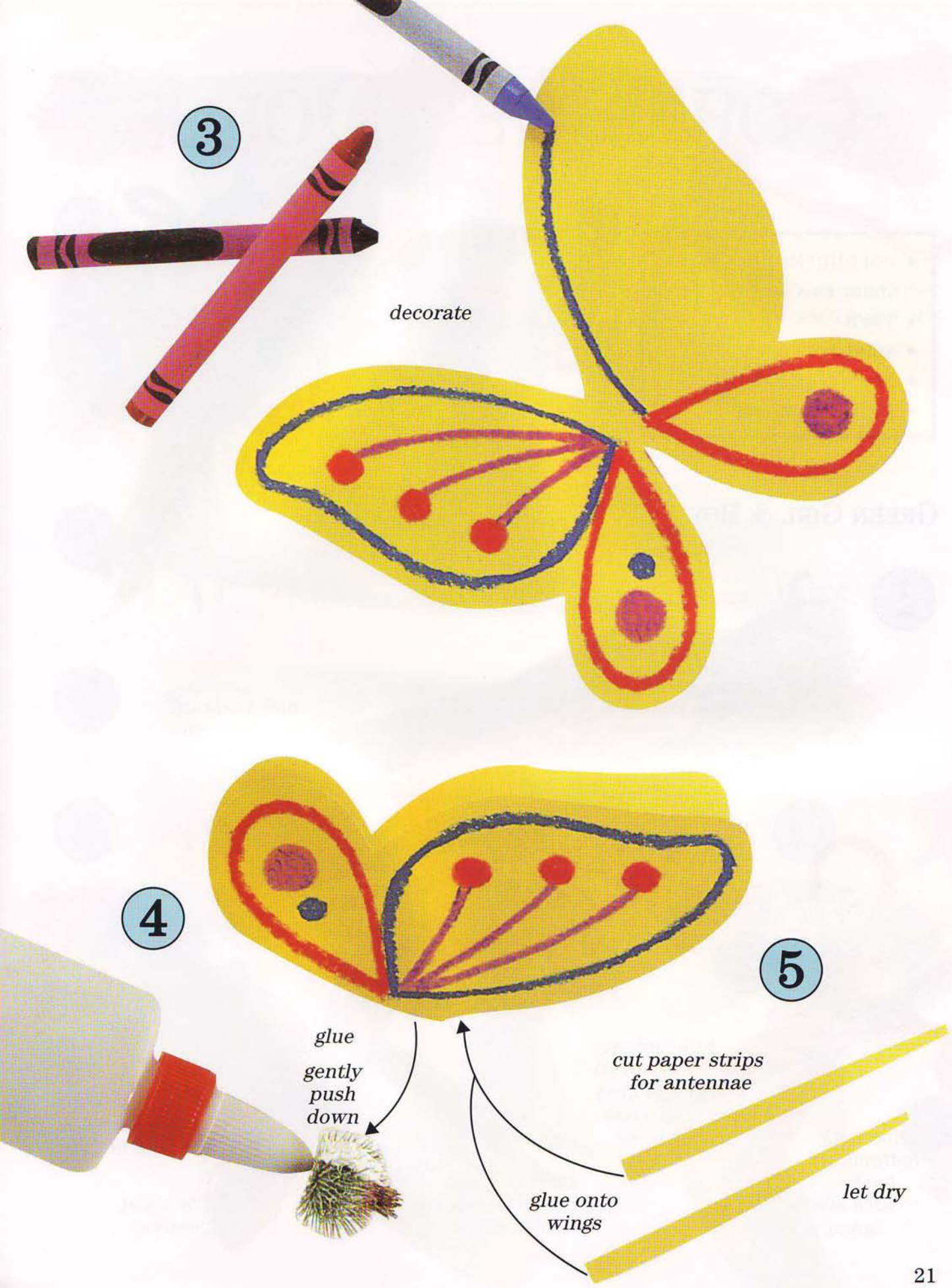
1

fold paper in half

draw shape of butterfly wing

2

cut out


3
decorate
4
glue
gently
push
down
5
cut paper strips
for antennae
glue onto
wings
let dry

CORNHUSK DOLLS

- cornhusks and silk from raw ear of corn
- yarn
- scissors
- acrylic paint
- paintbrush

GREEN GIRL & BOY

1

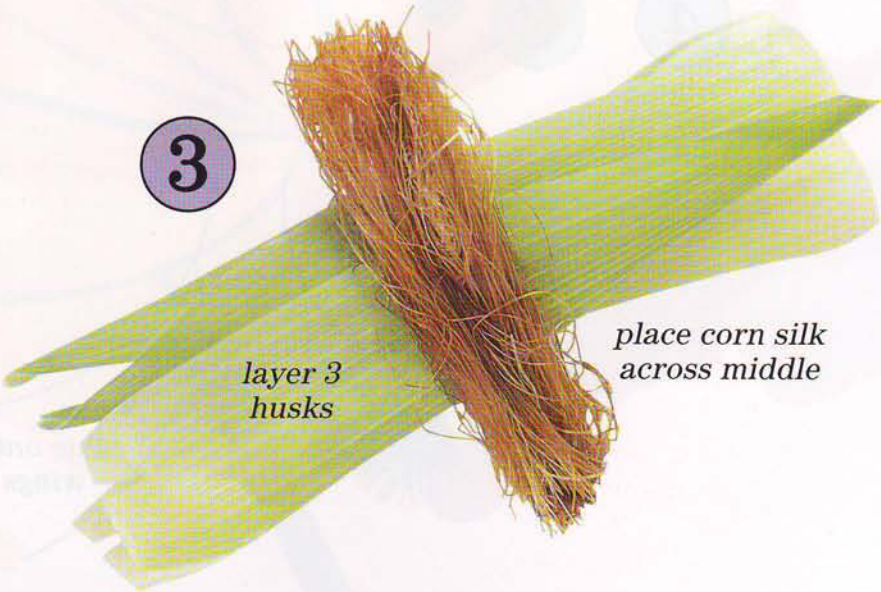
save corn silk

pull husks off ear of corn

2

trim thick bottoms off husks

3



layer 3 husks

place corn silk across middle

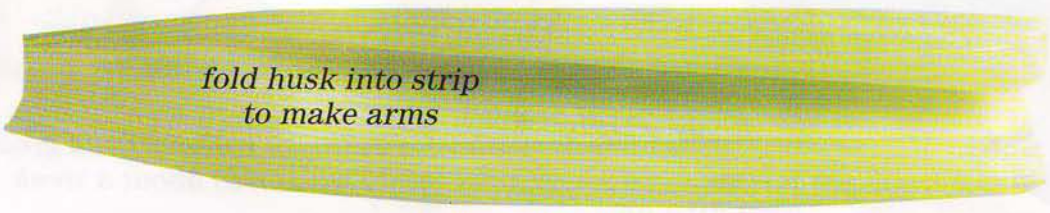
4

fold husks over silk

5

wrap and tie yarn below silk

6



fold husk into strip to make arms

7

fold ends into middle and tie both sides with yarn

8

place arms as shown

9

wrap and tie yarn below arms

separate and tie husks for pant legs or leave as is for skirt

10

add details with acrylic paint

Dried Duo

- cornhusk dolls
- tempera paint
- water
- paintbrush
- scissors
- fabric
- yarn

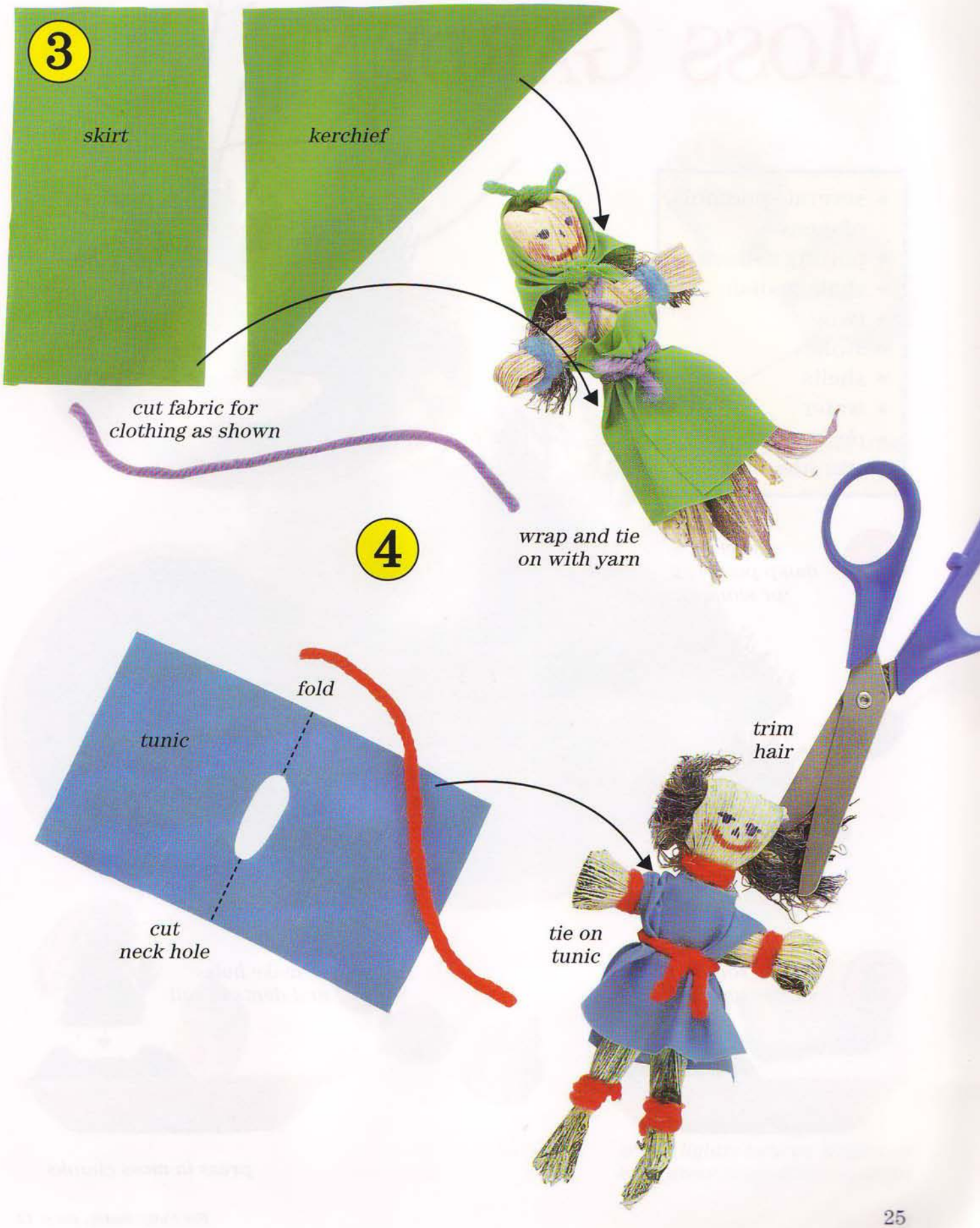
1

cornhusks will dry from green to golden in about a week

2

color with tempera paint and water

let dry


3
skirt
kerchief
cut fabric for
clothing as shown
wrap and tie
on with yarn
4
fold
tunic
cut
neck hole
trim
hair
tie on
tunic

Moss Garden

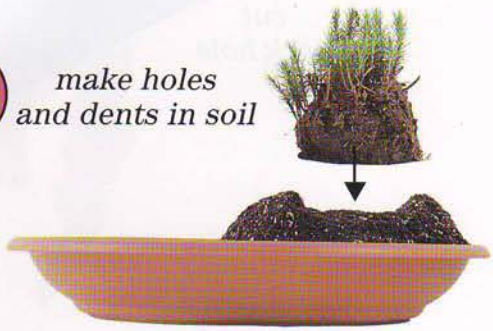
- several spoonfuls of moss
- potting soil
- shallow dish
- twigs
- stones
- shells
- water
- *decorate as you like*

1 *collect moss from damp places among trees or along roadsides*

2 *fill shallow dish with potting soil*

3 *shape soil into valleys and hills*

4 *make holes and dents in soil*



press in moss chunks

For Nutty Buddy, see p. 12.

5
push in twigs
add rocks and shells
to cover all soil
water lightly twice a week and
keep away from direct sunlight

FOREST FOLK

- twigs
- leaves and grass
- pine needles
- yarn
- scissors
- play clay
- acrylic paint and brush
- *decorate as you like*

TWIGGY

1

fold grass in half

2

wrap and tie grass with yarn

wrap and tie leaves

3

add details in acrylic paint

push into a ball of play clay to stand

Punk

1

2

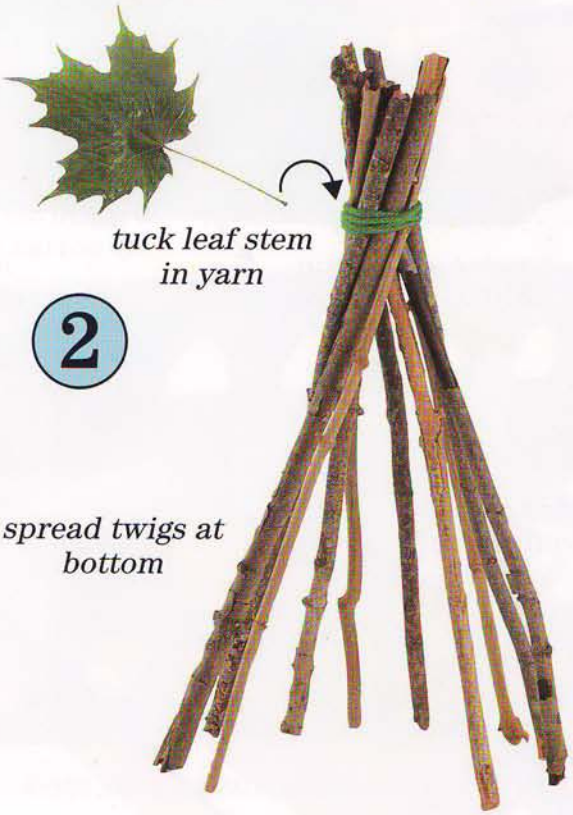
Hula

1

2

Twig Tent

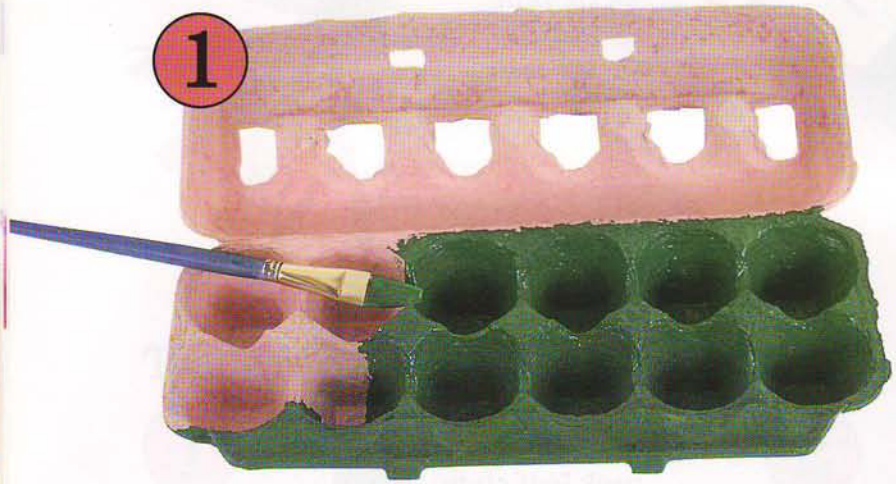
1



TREASURE TRUNK

- egg carton
- acrylic paint and brush
- cardboard
- scissors
- 3 spoonfuls fine sand
- 3 small containers
- food color
- white glue

1



paint egg carton with acrylic paint

let dry

2

cut cardboard to fit top of carton

3

put one spoonful of sand in each container

4

mix food color into sand

5

let sand dry

stir to break up chunks

6

cover part of cardboard with glue

spread evenly

7

sprinkle on one color of sand

8

gently shake off excess

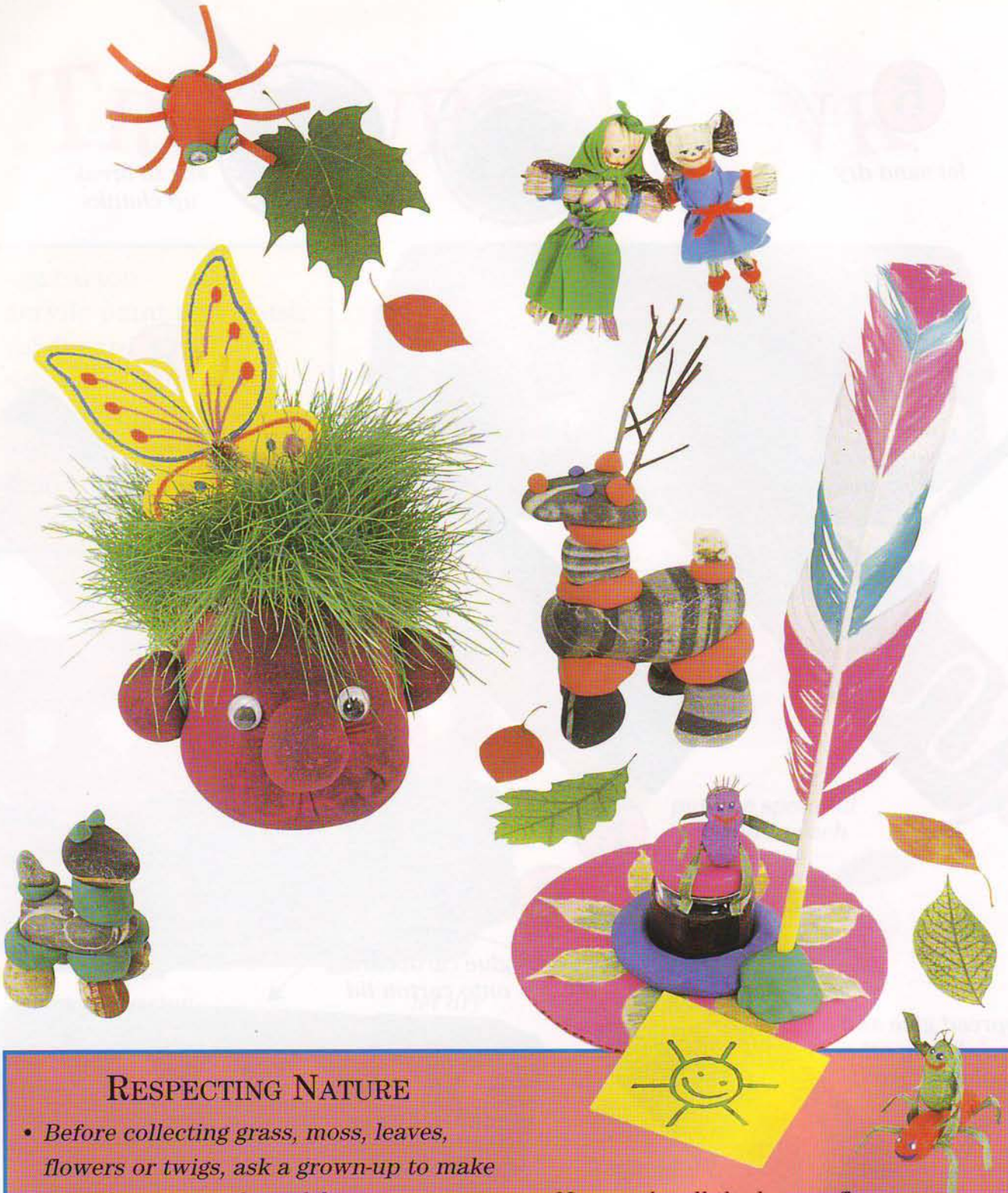
9

glue cardboard onto carton lid

spread glue and sprinkle on other colors of sand

let dry

keep your nature treasures in the trunk



Respecting Nature

- *Before collecting grass, moss, leaves, flowers or twigs, ask a grown-up to make sure they are not harmful.*
- *Don't eat wild berries unless a grown-up tells you they are not poisonous.*
- *Pick only small amounts of growing things. Pick only what you need.*
- *Don't pull a plant up by its roots.*
- *Never take all the leaves, flowers or seeds from a plant.*
- *If there are only a few plants of one kind growing, leave them alone.*
- *Sometimes it's better to just look, not pick . . . and take the memory home.*

Yes! Kids can make nature crafts that are fun • great-looking • easy to make

I Can Make Nature Crafts will show you how. Using household odds and ends, and natural materials from any walk outdoors, construction is no fuss, no mess, with no complicated instructions. So open this book, appreciate the natural world, let your imagination and creativity fly, and let's make nature crafts!

About the Author

Mary Wallace is an award-winning artist, craftsperson and former elementary school teacher. She has spent more than fifteen years teaching and inspiring children and adults to create innovative crafts. Mary's special gift for ingenious crafts designs turns the ordinary into the extraordinary in books for children of all ages – from *How to Make Great Stuff to Wear* and *How to Make Great Stuff for Your Room*, a Notable Children's Book of the Canadian Library Association, to the *I Can Make* series of books of crafts for young children. Mary teaches at a school of fine arts in Ontario.

Other books by Mary Wallace

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ISBN 1-895688-49-3
00695
9 781895 688498

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