

Southbank Centre: Eco Mobile making worksheet



Make beautiful wild mobiles to decorate your home in a time of lockdown.

Even though you may be housebound in body, your mind can still roam. Become a good scavenger and see possibilities everywhere.

Quick Tip

If you're little, you may need someone a bit older to help you create the mobile as you'd like it. They will be able to help make holes in things, do knots and generally stop things getting annoying!

What is an Eco Mobile?

Your mobile is basically a length of string with things attached to it, hanging in space. How intricate or crazy it turns out to be, is completely your call. It can have a 'theme', or be just random things that you like the look of, hanging out together.

Finding the materials

- **In the garden! (or any outdoor space)**

If you're lucky enough to have a garden you'll find lots of great things there. If not, when you go out for your exercise outing to the park or fields, take a bag along and collect anything you can safely gather from outside. Look for fallen twigs, bark from a tree, leaves, feathers, empty snail shells, pebbles with holes through them, dried grasses, whisps of sheep's wool, fir cones - anything that catches your eye. There are possibilities everywhere once you start to look!

- **Recycled Objects!**

At home, scavenge around the house – in the waste paper basket, the recycling bin, the kitchen. But not the food bin, urgh! Find things that look like they could be funky – strips of clean foil, scraps of colourful fabric, pieces of torn cardboard, little bits of wrapping paper, ribbon, plastic pots, beads, hair-ties, corks, bones, buttons, newspaper, and of course anything sparkly! Beg, borrow or steal (OK, well maybe not steal) to get the stuff you want!

- **Something Pointy!**

You'll need this to make holes in the things you find. If you're old enough to do this on your own, then anything pointy to bodge through things and make a hole will do (best check with a grown-up first, or ask them to help you).

- **String!**

Or yarn, or wool, or strong sewing thread, or nylon fishing line if there is any around.

OK, now we've got everything, time to go for it!

Everyone's an artist, and everything's up to you... remember, there is no right or wrong way to do this, just follow the steps on the next page for guidance.

Step 1

Start your mobile by cutting a length of your chosen string (or thread etc) so it is at least as long as you want the finished mobile to be.

Step 2

Decide which end is the top, make a loop there, and hang the string from a hook or a door knob or something, so you have both hands free to work. Leave a bit of space, and start working downwards, threading or tying your 'found' objects onto the string. It's up to you what spaces you leave between your objects. The wilder and crazier you go the better.

For example, if you're feeling confident you could literally branch out, starting near the top with a twig or piece of wood, tied securely around the middle and hanging horizontally. Then, if it works out and you can get it to balance (part of the fun), you could hang two other things, one from either end of the twig. Then just carry on down your main thread, tying or threading your objects on as you like.

Step 3

When you've finished, find somewhere in your house or garden to hang your mobile. Mobiles work best when they can dangle free and move gently, which is sometimes easier outside than in. But anywhere is good.

That's it - simple as that! We hope you get lost in the making. What you create will have its own beauty, and you should be rightly proud of it.

Happy mobile-making!