Do More

Is there an older kid looking for something more challenging? Try this activity.

Create a Comic Strip

Use *Untitled* (from "Ten Mexican Artists" portfolio) by Kazuya Sakai as inspiration for your characters, setting, and actions.

Tip for Adults

Did you know that talking about things you see makes kids (and adults!) smarter? Talking together about the details of things you see helps kids look more closely, learn new words, and gain thinking skills. You don't need an artwork to do this.

Try This: talk about an object in your everyday life (such as a cereal box or T-shirt). Describe as many details as possible.

Janel Mirendah

Look

Talk

Play

Explore Colors and Shapes

Color and shapes are all around you!

In this guide, you'll find fun and easy ideas for learning about colors and shapes. You'll also make your own colorful art using everyday materials.

Look, talk, and play! Learning happens everywhere. These activities provide easy ways to help kids build skills in literacy, creativity, and communication while using everyday materials and exploring interesting topics brought to you by the Smithsonian! This activity is part one of a series of five.

Smithsonian

This resource was created by educators from the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.

Support for Look-Talk-Play comes, in part, from Annette L. Nazareth and Roger W. Ferguson, Jr. and the Smithsonian's Office of the Associate Provost for Education and Access.

SI Look Talk Play Layout.indd 1 5/20/20 11:31 AM

Look

Let your eyes wander.
Look up, down, and all around.

Untitled (from "Ten Mexican Artists" portfolio), 1972. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, The Joseph H. Hirshhorn Bequest, 1981.

Can you find these colors?

As you find each color, name and describe it. Be specific. For example, "I see school bus yellow and avocado green."

Can you find these shapes?

As you find each shape, name it or describe it. Do you see any shapes that are almost a circle, triangle, or rectangle?

This artwork is called *Untitled* (from "Ten Mexican Artists" portfolio) and was made by **Kazuya Sakai** in 1972. Sakai is known for his colorful screen prints that feature repeated geometric shapes and lines.

Talk

Talk about these colors and shapes.

What have you seen that has one of these colors or shapes? Now, list as many things with these colors or shapes as you can think of. Need some help? Look around your space or inside a book or magazine.

What does this artwork remind you of?

What do you think it is? What makes you say that? Use the details that you see to explain your ideas.

Make up a story about this artwork.

Who is in the story? What are they doing? Where does the story take place?

Play

Make three-dimensional (3D) shape art

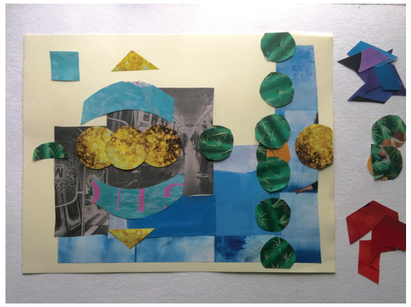
Gather objects with different shapes. Find books, plates, boxes of snacks, remote controls, cushions, and whatever else inspires you!

You're making a 3D version of Sakai's two-dimensional (2D) screenprint. Think of 2D as flat and 3D as something you can wrap your hands around (like an apple). Arrange the objects into your own artwork.

Make shapes with your body

Turn your body into the shapes from the artwork. Can you become a triangle? A line? A circle?

Work together and use two or three bodies to make shapes. What new possibilities do you have when you work with a friend?



Make a shape collage

Cut up old mail, newspapers, or magazines into the shapes you see in the artwork. Arrange and layer them into your own version.

If you don't have scissors, try tearing the paper.

Tearing paper is a great activity for toddlers and preschoolers to make their hands strong before they learn to write.

Turn yourself into this artwork

Use your clothing, colored paper, other colorful objects, and props to turn yourself into the artwork.

Do More

Is there an older kid looking for something more challenging? Try this activity.

Growing Up in Nature. Plants change as they grow, just like people and butterflies! As a plant changes over time, the way animals use it also changes. Find a flowering plant outside and look closely at it. Draw the details you see in the "First Visit" box. Do you see any signs of animals around the plant? Look for chew marks, spider webs, even bird poop, then add them to your drawing.

Go back to the same plant one week later. What has changed? Are the animal signs around the plant the same or different? Explore and draw the plant again in the "Second Visit" box.

First Visit	Second Visit

Tip for Adults

Did you know that kids (and adults) can learn through movement? Our brains and bodies work together to help us make sense of new places and new information. Tracing shapes, dancing like an azalea bush, and acting out a life cycle can help adults and kids get new ideas!

Families Outdoors, Friends of the National Zoo

Look

Talk

Play

Explore Plants and Animals

Nature is all around you!

In this guide, you will find fun and easy activities about plants and animals. You will also learn new ways to explore the natural world that's all around you, from the plants along the sidewalk to the birds soaring overhead.

Look, talk, and play! Learning happens everywhere. These activities provide easy ways to help kids build skills in literacy, creativity, and communication while using everyday materials and exploring interesting topics brought to you by the Smithsonian! This activity is part two of a series of five.

Smithsonian

This resource was created by educators from the Smithsonian American Art Museum and Friends of the National Zoo

Support for SAAM education programming and resources comes from ***Annette L. Nazareth and Roger W. Ferguson, Jr.***

SI Look Talk Play CARD2.indd 1 6/8/20 2:39 PM

Look

Let your eyes wander.
Look up, down, and all around.

] Mary Vaux Walcott, *Flame Azalea (Rhododendron speciosum)*, 1938, watercolor on paper, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of the artist, 1970.355.245

The painting on this page is *Flame Azalea (Rhododendron speciosum)* by **Mary Vaux Walcott.** She traveled across North America and painted many plants she saw.

The painting on the next page is *Red Azaleas Singing and Dancing Rock and Roll Music* by **Alma Thomas**. She was a teacher with DC Public Schools and looked around her city for inspiration.

Can you find the same shapes?

Both paintings are of flowers called azaleas. Pick one part of the azalea on this page and trace it with your finger. What shape did you make? Now, pick a new part and find a different shape. Can you find the same shapes in the painting of azaleas on the next page?

Can you move like an azalea?

Make your body look like Walcott's azaleas. Move your body into the shapes that you see! Now, try moving like Thomas's azaleas. How do you have to change your body?

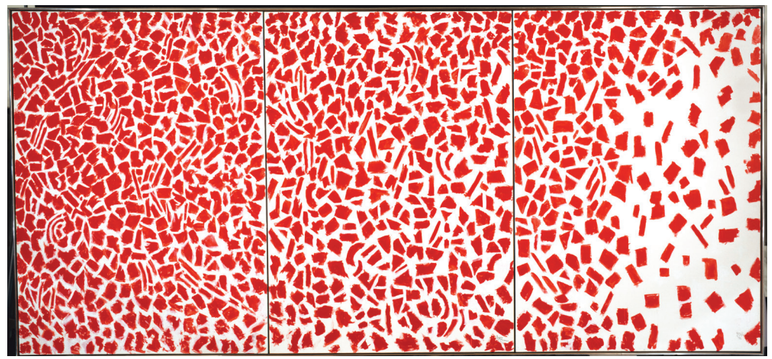
Talk

Portrait of Alma Thomas: Laura Wheeler Waring, *Portrait of a Lady*, 1947, oil on canvas, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of Vincent Melzac, 1977.121

Are animals in the azaleas? Animals like birds and bugs use plants for food and shelter. Where might a caterpillar go to hide in these azaleas? What makes you say that? What animals share some of the same colors as these paintings?

Talk about your strengths. Walcott started painting when she was eight. Thomas (pictured here) became a serious painter when she was almost 70! What do you enjoy doing today? What might you enjoy doing when you grow up?

Play

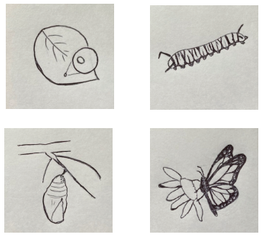


Alma Thomas, *Red Azaleas Singing and Dancing Rock and Roll Music*, 1976, acrylic on canvas, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Bequest of the artist, 1980.36.2A-C

Child Listening, Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center

Listen to the painting. The painting above is called Red Azaleas Singing and Dancing Rock and Roll Music. If one of the shapes in the painting were a button, what sound would come out when you pressed it? Take the painting to someone at home. Show them the button to press, then make the sound! Ask them to do the same.

Make your own window. Thomas was inspired by the plants outside her window. Make your own "window to the world!" Find a cereal box or piece of paper and cut out a picture frame. Decorate it, then take it outside. Find a flower, plant, tree, or anything that catches your eye and look at it through your window. What more do you notice?



Move your body. Butterflies need plants during every part of their life cycle. Tell the story of a butterfly's life with your body:

1. Hatch from an egg as a caterpillar!
2. Wiggle along a leaf as you grow big and strong!
3. Spin a chrysalis then be very still as you change into a butterfly!
4. Hatch again as a butterfly and fly away!

Talk about it. What new ideas do you have about a butterfly's life cycle?

SI Look Talk Play CARD2.indd 2 6/8/20 2:39 PM

Do More

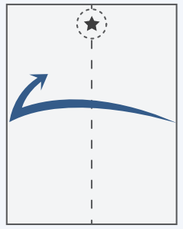
Is there an older kid looking for something more challenging? Try this activity.

Make a paper airplane.

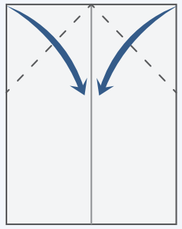
Give it a try and record and your observations. Make another plane but change the design a little bit. (Try changing the wing shape or using a different kind of paper.) How did changing the design affect the way the plane flies? Which plane flies the farthest? The straightest? The fastest? Why do you think changing the design affected the way the plane flies?

★ Make sure the location of the star on your paper plane print out matches the location of the star in the directions below!

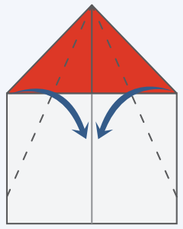
1. Pattern side down, fold paper in half, then unfold.



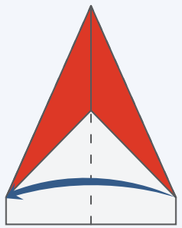
2. Fold both top corners in to center crease.



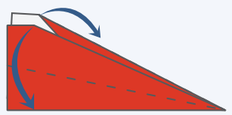
3. Fold both sides in again so the corners meet at the middle crease.



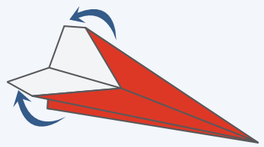
4. Fold plane in half.



5. Fold down both wings so the two top corners meet the bottom edge of the plane.



6. Unfold wings so they lie horizontal when the plane is in flight.



YOU'RE READY TO FLY!

Create Your Own Paper Airplane activity, How Things Fly, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum

Tip for Adults

Did you know that failure is an important part of the invention process? Airplane inventors, the Wright Brothers, didn't make a working plane on their first try (or their tenth). When trying new things, it is important to tell kids (and adults) not to be discouraged if they don't feel satisfied with their first try. Remind them that it's good to try new things. Every time we try something new, we learn and move closer to our goals.

Jay Cowan, 1973, Scurlock Studio Records, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Look Talk Play

Bicycles and Biplanes

Bicycles and biplanes are both forms of transportation.

That means they help people move from one place to another. In this guide, you will find fun and easy activities about bicycles and biplanes, and how they work. You will also learn the stories of two people who used bicycles and biplanes to chase big dreams.

Look, talk, and play! Learning happens everywhere. These activities provide easy ways to help kids build skills in literacy, creativity, and communication while using everyday materials and exploring interesting topics brought to you by the Smithsonian! This activity is part three of a series of five.

Smithsonian

This resource was created by educators from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and National Air and Space Museum.

SI Look Talk Play CARD3.indd 1 6/25/20 9:08 AM

Look

Let your eyes wander.
Look up, down, and all around.

Look at the words **bi**cycle and **bi**plane. They both start with "bi." "Bi" means two. Words that start with "bi" have parts that come in twos. Now look at these pictures of a model biplane and a bicycle. What do you see in sets of two? For example: this bicycle has two streamers; this biplane has two seats.

Let's Get Moving!

Lay down on your back, lift your feet high in the air, bend your knees, and pedal like you are riding an imaginary bicycle. How are your legs moving? Can you move them faster? Slower?

Curtiss JN-4D Jenny, 1917-1925, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum
Schwinn Panther Bicycle, 1953, GIft of James Lyle Hurd, National Museum of American History

Talk

Meet Bessie Coleman and Major Taylor

Bessie Coleman was a pilot who flew a biplane. She did brave tricks like walking on the wings while someone else flew the plane.

Marshall Walter "Major" Taylor loved to ride bicycles. He rode so fast he held seven world records and was a national and international bicycling champion.

Talk about your interests. Interest means you want to learn more. Bessie Coleman was interested in being in the air. She learned about flying and became a pilot. Major Taylor was interested in getting from place to place really fast. He learned to ride and race bicycles. What is something that interests you? Why is it interesting? How can you learn more about it?

Play

Balance is Important.

Bicycles and biplanes have two of everything to keep them balanced. Bicycles have two wheels and two pedals. Biplanes have two sets of wings and usually two seats. Imagine if a biplane had wings on only one side! It wouldn't be balanced enough to take off and fly.

Test your balance. Walk on an imaginary tightrope.

1. Make sure there isn't anything in your way and you are in a safe place. Use tape to make a straight line on the floor. (Ask an adult's permission first.) If you are outside, use chalk to draw a line on the ground.
2. Stand at one end of the line and hold your arms out straight like the wings of a plane.
3. Try to walk along the line to the other end. Did your feet stay on the line? Why or why not?

Try these balance challenges. Why do the challenges make it harder to stay balanced?

- Close your eyes while you walk along the line.
- Walk backwards.
- Run or hop on one foot.
- Carefully carry something heavy in one hand while you keep your arms stretched out.

Tightrope Walker, Victor Joseph Gatto, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of Herbert Waide Hemphill, Jr. and museum purchase made possible by Ralph Cross Johnson

Left
Bessie Coleman standing on the Wheel of her Jenny aircraft, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum
Marshall "Major" Taylor, 1898, George H. Van Norman, New York Public Library

SI Look Talk Play CARD3.indd 2 6/25/20 9:08 AM

Do More

Is there an older kid looking for something more challenging? Try this activity.

Writing is a form of self expression. Use the box below to design a cover for a book about a special moment in your life or something unique about you or your family. Then, take 5 sheets of blank paper, fold them in half like a book and begin to write and illustrate your own story!

Tip for Adults

Noticing difference is a natural part of childhood. Adults can encourage children to find joy in human diversity by talking about it. Look at photographs and books together and invite your child to describe the human differences they see. As you talk, remind your child there is no "normal" or "right" way to be– all people are different and beautiful.

Look Talk Play

Self-Expression: I Love My Hair!

Hair comes in all kinds of textures and colors and can be styled in many ways.

We can express ourselves and pride in our cultures by the ways we style our hair.

Use this guide to explore hairstyles, self-expression, and symbols, and have conversations about your family identity, history and culture. Then, express what makes you special, including your hair, with fun art, movement, and writing activities.

Look, talk, and play! Learning happens everywhere. These activities provide easy ways to help kids build skills in literacy, creativity, and communication while using everyday materials and exploring interesting topics brought to you by the Smithsonian! This activity is part four of a series of five.

Smithsonian

This resource was created by educators from the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture and National Museum of the American Indian

Untitled (Monique with Doll), Milton Williams, 1979. Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of Milton Williams Archives, © Milton Williams

Girl in cotton dress sitting on log for portrait; looking off to her left. "Indian child from U.S. Indian School." Plateau. Photographer: Major Lee Moorhouse (Thomas Leander Moorhouse), Non-Indian, 1850-1926. National Museum of the American Indian P27426

SI Look Talk Play CARD4 Draft3.indd 1 7/10/20 3:26 PM

Look

Let your eyes wander.
Look up, down, and all around.

Look closely. How are the objects the same and different? How do you think each tool is used to take care of hair? What tools or hair products do you use to care for hair?

Afro picks are combs often used in Black communities to care for thick and curly hair. Describe what you see. A symbol is a picture that represents an idea or object. The raised fist is a symbol that says Black people are beautiful, powerful and have a lot to be proud of–including their hair!

Hair brushes are common tools for caring for long hair. Have you ever seen a porcupine? Native Americans made hair brushes from things that had sturdy bristles–like porcupine tails–to comb their hair!

Afro hair comb with black fist design, early 2000s. Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of Elaine Nichols

Innu (Nataskwan) hair brush made from porcupine tail and wooden handle. Canada, ca. 1957, 22/5378. National Museum of the American Indian

Talk

How you choose to style your hair is a way to express who you are.

It shows connections to family, tribal nations, and communities and even tells stories about history. Sometimes we learn ways to style hair from someone special in our family or community.

Take a look in the mirror. What is something special you love about your hair?

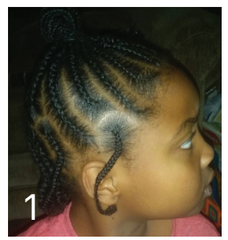
How do you like to wear your hair? Why? What does your hairstyle tell others about your family?

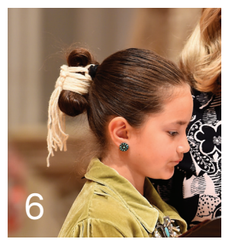
Does this image look familiar?
Princess Leia's famous hairstyle was inspired by Hopi maidens' squash blossom bun style. Native American hair fashions with special meanings have inspired new ideas for styles in films and today, help to connect Native children to their traditional cultures.

Afros are styled by lifting and stretching hair upwards and outwards with afro picks. The afro celebrates the beauty and natural texture of Black hair and honors African ancestry.

Play

Look at the styles! How are they the same or different from your style?





1 Fulani-style cornrow braids **2** Single braid **3** Fade haircut with waves and shaved design
4 Afro puffs **5** Hair down **6** Tsiiyéé? Dine (Navajo) hair bun

Hairstyling is just one way to express yourself. The art you make and how you move your bodies can also be ways to say who you are and how you feel. Try out these activities to celebrate your unique self!

Draw a portrait. Draw a self-portrait–a picture of you!–with your favorite hairstyle. Add family members and friends to show how they wear their hair. For extra self-expression, draw a picture of you doing something you love and add words that describe who you are on the inside.

Dance together! Turn on your favorite music and express your emotions with dance moves. How do you dance when you feel happy or calm, angry or sad?

Photo Credits, Left
A photo of the artwork of Nicholas Galanin (Tlingit/Unangaŝ), *Things Are Looking Native, Native's Looking Whiter,* 2012. Photo taken by NMAI staff member, Adrienne Smith (Cherokee/Muskogee) in the exhibition Dear Listener: Works by Nicholas Galanin, Heard Museum, Arizona.

Local San Francisco Boy Band, names unknown, c. 1970s, Steven Jackson Jr. Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of Mary E. Jackson, Posthumously and Linda A. Jackson, © Linda A. Jackson

Photo Credits, Above
1. Soleil with cornrows, 2019 2&5. Theo Norman (Pamunkey/Pawnee/Otoe), photo taken by NMAI Staff Member Ben Norman (Pamunkey). 3. Gabriel with fade, 2020, Asme The Barber 4. Carli with puffs, 2020, Cari-Shawn 6. Mahate Tsouhlarakis Carreiro (Navajo/Chickasaw) during her graduation day. Photo courtesy of Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School. ***Tsiiyéé?***–Diné (Navajo) is a sacred hair bun worn by men and women that's also a spiritual practice and connection to ancestors. There is meaning behind the creation, the way it sits on a person's head and the way it is wrapped.

SI Look Talk Play CARD4 Draft3.indd 2 7/10/20 3:26 PM

Do More

Is there an older kid looking for something more challenging? Try this activity.

It's meal time! Who will you enjoy your recipe with? Draw a picture of you with your family or friends enjoying your special meal together.

Tip for Family Conversation

Food can share stories of identity and migration, including different cultural intersections as people move across borders. Borders are man-made lines separating countries. Sometimes, borders can even move around people. Our cultures come with us wherever we are. Sharing stories about your family's history and ancestors helps your child develop pride in their heritage. Think about foods you enjoy together.

- Who taught you to make those meals?
- Did a relative or a community member share them?

Storytelling helps our children cherish these cultural expressions and one day pass them on to the next generation.

Look Talk Play

Food and Culture

Many foods in the United States come from different cultures around the world.

When immigrants move to a different country, they often bring special memories and family recipes with them. Food helps us remember our culture even when we're in a new place! In this card, we'll learn about food and culture brought to the US from Latin America and Asia and how you can celebrate your own culture!

Look, talk, and play! Learning happens everywhere. These activities provide easy ways to help kids build skills in literacy, creativity, and communication while using everyday materials and exploring interesting topics brought to you by the Smithsonian! This activity is part five of a series of five.

Smithsonian

This resource was created by educators from the Smithsonian's Asian Pacific American Center, the Smithsonian Latino Center, and the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

"Family around the feast" by Gnawme is licensed under CC BY 2.0

"Mormon Family Dinner" by More Good Foundation is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0

SI Look Talk Play CARD5 Draft.indd 1 7/30/20 6:10 PM

Look

What foods are important to your family and culture?

Culture is a word for the different ways groups of people think, believe and do things. Food is one way to show and celebrate a family's culture. Our food tells stories about our history and helps us connect with special people and memories.

What foods are important to your family? What foods do you like making and eating together?

A burrito ready to eat!

Credit for image of the burrito: "h_AK36689b" byKrisFricke is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Two fried egg rolls.

Credit for image of egg rolls "Egg Rolls" by beautyredefined is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Look closely at the shape, size and color of the food you see. Have you seen or eaten food like this before? How are burritos and egg rolls the same and different?

- People have many stories about who made the first burritos in Mexico. Some say they were an easy meal for soldiers during wartimes. Others think burritos got their name from the Spanish word burro which means "donkey" since they were often sold from carts pulled by donkeys.
- To make a burrito, you wrap meat and other foods, like rice and beans, in a tortilla. A tortilla is a flat bread made from corn or wheat flour that looks like a circle. In Mexico, burritos are small like tacos. In the United States, burritos are big with more fillings.
- Some say a Chinese restaurant in the United States made egg rolls first when they used fried egg to wrap meat and veggies instead of flour dough. Egg rolls in China are different from those made in the United States. To make an egg roll, you wrap meat and vegetables in a wrapper made of flour, and fry it in oil.

Talk

Sometimes families use special tools or cookware to make and eat foods from their culture. What does your family use to cook? Do you use a different utensil or pot?

Gift of Anna Bermudez. National Museum of American History.

Can you tell what this is? This comal or **griddle** works like a stove to cook tortillas.

Gift of Dennis and Wanda Wong. National Museum of American History.

This **teapot** was used to serve hot tea at a Chinese restaurant.

Play

What do you make at home?

Concepción "Concha" Sanchez wore this apron while making tortillas in her small neighborhood business.

Gift of Anna Bermudez. National Museum of American History.

Recipes are directions for making food. Sometimes families have recipes they've used for a long time. Certain meals can be very important to a family's culture so they make sure to keep sharing the recipes with every new family member.

Create a recipe card for your favorite food.

Write and draw a recipe you can share with your family and community below.

- What is your food called? Write the name at the top!
- Think about what ingredients (or food items) you will need and add it to the list. Will you use salt? Does your meal need meat?
- Then, write the steps for how to make the meal. What's the first thing you do? Do you need to mix ingredients? Will you chop vegetables? What comes after this?
- Finally, draw a picture of what your food will look like when it is all done! Don't forget to tell why this recipe is special to you.

Recipe:

Steps to Make It!

Ingredients:

Why is this recipe special?