

# Create a Holiday Ornament

The holiday season is here, and many families will be decorating their homes over the next few weeks. Beautiful ornaments can make your house feel much more festive over the holidays.

Fortunately, you don't have to spend a lot of money on decorations. Our natural environment provides a great source of materials that can be used to decorate your home. For this month's activity, we're going to create a holiday ornament from nature.

Go on a nature walk near your house or in a nearby park. Gather some items you see along your walk. Some good things to grab include twigs, pine cones, leaves, rocks and small pine branches. When you get home, spread the items out on the table so that you can see what you have to work with. You may also need a few arts and crafts supplies from around the house such as glue, string and markers.

Use the string and/or glue to turn your nature items into your favorite holiday ornaments. If you feel like it, you can use markers to provide more color and detail to your ornaments. Some potential holiday decorations you can make include:

- Stars
- Snowmen
- Snowflakes
- Balls
- Mini wreaths
- Minitrees
- Garlands

Once you're done, hang your new holiday ornaments around your house to provide a more festive feel.



We'd love to see you completing this activity. If you would like, please send us a picture of you playing this game so that we can share it on social media. Please email pictures to [info@zoologyfoundation.org](mailto:info@zoologyfoundation.org).

# ZoFo Connect

## November, 2021

**It's time to decorate your house for the holidays! This month we're making holiday ornaments from nature.**

### Did You Know?

The tradition of decorating homes with evergreen limb ornaments during the winter solstice began in ancient Egypt. These evergreen items provided a comforting presence to the Egyptian people during the cold days and long nights of winter. Modern holiday ornaments can be traced back to Germany during the 16th century. This is the first known practice of decorating small evergreen trees during the holiday season with items such as candles, berries, nuts and other ornaments. It didn't take long for this tradition to spread across Europe, and German immigrants eventually brought this ritual to the United States in the 18th and 19th centuries.

**Disclaimer:** Supervision and safety of children participating in these activities is not the responsibility of Zoology Foundation. All children should be accompanied by a responsible adult.

