

Little learners get hands on, minds on at Tinkering for Tots, a program designed for curious preschoolers to develop an innovative mindset and make connections through storytelling, play, artifact exploration and a take-home STEAM activity kit.

What connections are we making?

Highlighted Habit



BE EMPATHETIC

Description: How would that make you feel? How do you think that makes someone else feel?

Story

Title: *When We Are Kind*

Author: Monique Gray Smith

Why we picked this book: This wonderful story illustrates the many ways our littlest learners can be kind to family, friends, pets, our planet, themselves, and each other. It also points out the positive feelings we get from showing kindness.

Artifact Spotlight

Name: *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson

Location: In the *Your Place in Time* exhibit, Baby Boomer section (1960s area)

To learn more about the story behind this artifact, please see the artifact spotlight on Page 2.

Open Exploration

Description: Playing with magnetic building tiles.

Skills your young learner is practicing: Practicing empathy if a project doesn't work the first time, being kind by sharing materials.

Questions to Ask Your Young Learner

What are ways you are kind at home? What are ways you are kind to brothers or sisters or parents? How do you feel when you are kind to others? How do you feel when others are kind to you?

Why is it good to share? How do you feel when you share? How do you feel when someone else shares with you?

Take-Home Activity

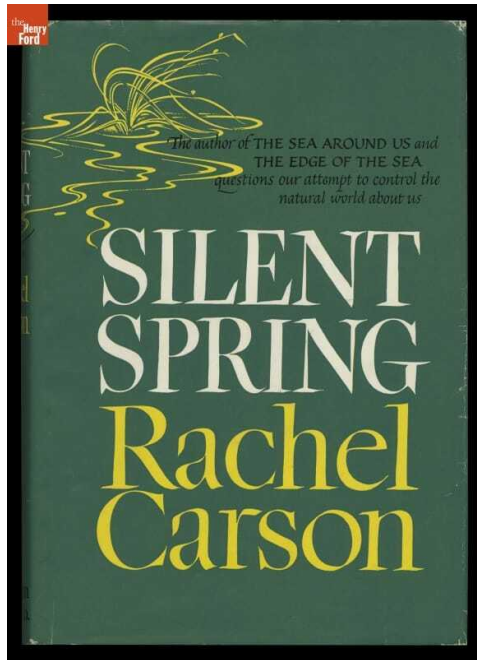
Title: Bird Feeders and Binoculars

Materials:

- 3 small cardboard tubes
- Vegetable shortening
- Popsicle stick
- Birdseed
- Twine
- Glue
- Yarn
- *Single-hole punch not included*

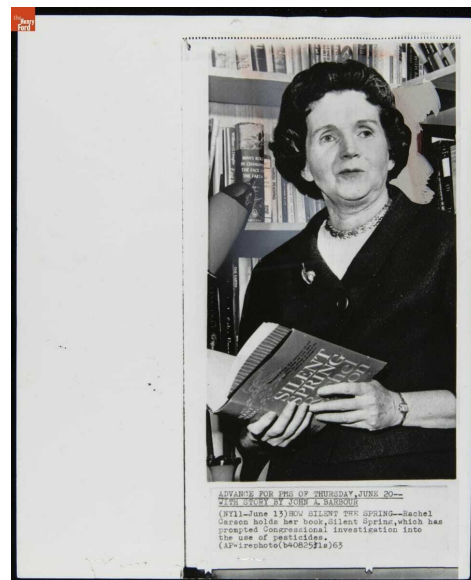


Artifact Spotlight



Silent Spring by Rachel Carson: *Silent Spring* is a book that explains the harm done using strong pesticides. Pesticides are one way we try to get rid of pests. Pests can be weeds, bugs, mice or germs — anything we don't want to have around. Sometimes pesticides work too well and get rid of the pest we meant to but hurt other plants, animals, and even people. Because of Rachel Carson's care and hard work, people are now trying to protect our environment. Her work helped stop the use of the pesticide DDT that hurt birds and other animals and could even hurt people. Her books showed the need for the government to set up the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Carson knew that we could be part of the answer to protecting the environment. The environment is everything around us. Air, soil, water, plants, and animals make up the environment. One way people can help today is by acting as citizen scientists. A citizen scientist is not a scientist but works with scientists to make positive change. By paying attention to our environment and taking an interest in the science behind sustainability, we can all make a difference by making small changes to help look after the planet.



Take-Home Activity



Bird Feeder Materials:

- Small cardboard tubes
- Vegetable shortening
- Popsicle stick
- Birdseed
- Twine



1.

Directions:

1. Run the twine through the cardboard tube and tie the ends together to create a loop to hang your bird feeder.
2. Using the popsicle stick, spread vegetable shortening over the cardboard tube.
3. Fill a plate with birdseed.
4. Roll your cardboard tube in the birdseed. Make sure to cover it completely.



2.



4.

Take-Home Activity

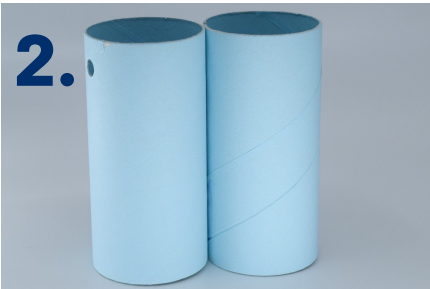


Binoculars Materials:

- 2 small cardboard tubes
- Yarn
- Glue

Directions:

1. Punch a hole in one end of each tube.
2. Glue the tubes together along one side, making sure the hole punches are on the same end and on the outside of each tube.
3. Tie the end of the yarn or string through each hole, creating the neck strap.
4. Use your binoculars to look for birds.



Coloring Sheet

