



## NATURE AT HOME

We hope to inspire kids of all ages to learn about the natural world and discover new connections to nature.



### Make at Home Exploration Tools

View the video at [DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home](http://DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home)

Materials: paper; ruler; cardboard; paperclips or rubber band; dark crayon or marker; string, tape or glue stick  
It can be helpful to bring along some simple tools when you explore in nature. Some of them you can make in your own home.

**Nature Journal.** Watch the How to Make a Nature Journal or download a print version of our Be at Home in Nature Series journal.

**Measuring tool:** Use a ruler or the rulers provided on the cover of our nature journal. Record your measurements in inches and centimeters.

**Clipboard:** Cut a piece of cardboard into a 5 inch x7 inch rectangle. Use a rubber band or paper clips to hold your journal in place.

**Viewing Window:** Use your “window” to really focus in on an object. Follow the directions on the next page to make this useful tool.



**String Quadrant** To make you own String Quadrant, you need a 6 foot length of any kind of string or cording. Tie the ends together. Then cut two additional 2 feet lengths. Now you can divide your quadrant into four smaller areas. This make it a lot easier to focus on what you find. You might see things like a small seedling, shrubs, grass, leaves, flowers, insects, or cones. Make a list of what you find and how many are in each quadrant. Record everything in your journal.

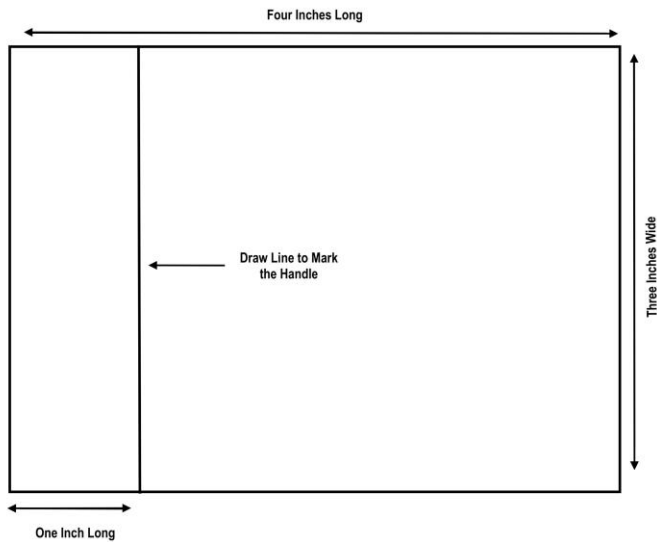


Make these simple tools at home and take them with you the next time you go into nature. Find an interesting place to stop and collect information on all the living organisms and non-living things you see around you.

*These tools will help you focus on the “little”, wonderful parts of nature.*

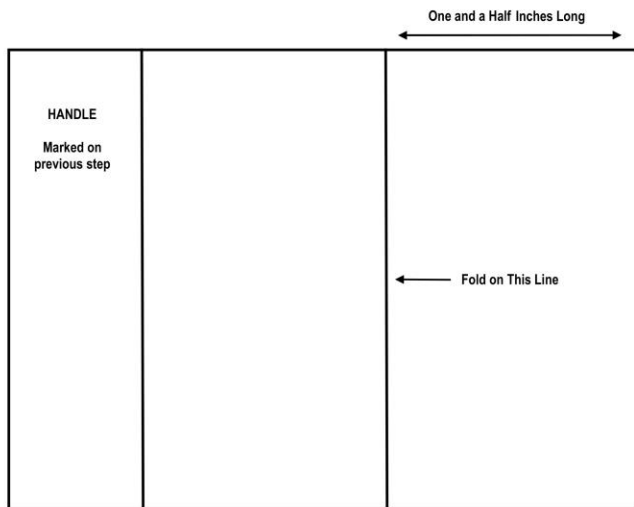
If you would like to share your experience using these tools you can email us at [Education@DishmanHills.org](mailto:Education@DishmanHills.org)

Page Two – Make At Home Exploration Tools



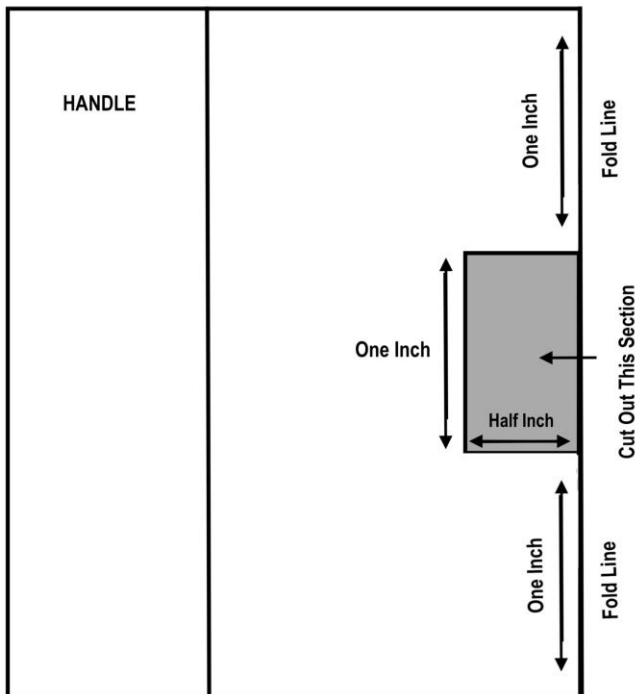
On the blank side of a piece of cardboard, carefully measure and cut a rectangle that is four inches long and three inches wide.

Draw a straight line from the top to the bottom of your cardboard that is one (1) inch in from the left edge. This line will mark your handle leaving the remaining three (3) inch wide by three (3) inch long portion of the cardboard to make your viewer.



Draw a straight line from the top to the bottom of your cardboard that is one and a half inches in from the right edge. This line will evenly divide the remaining three (3) inches of your cardboard between the handle and the far righthand side.

Fold the cardboard from right to left along the line you just drew (be careful not to fold over your handle).

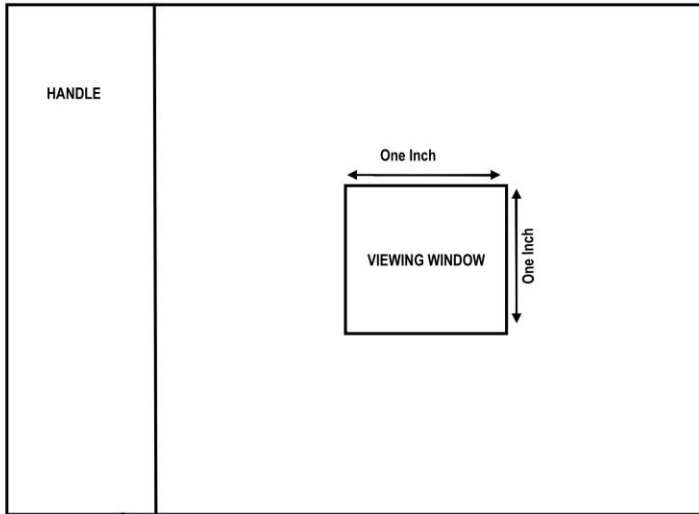


At the center of your fold, make two marks— one that is one (1) inch from the top and one that is one (1) inch from the bottom.

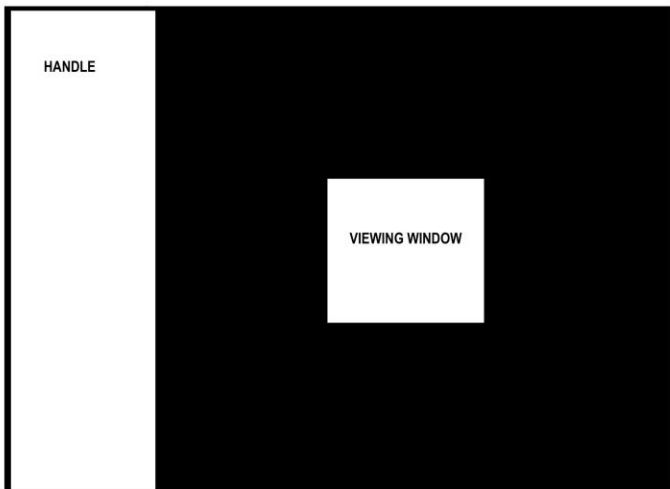
At the fold, draw a straight line in one half inch in from each of your two marks.

Draw a straight line connecting the two lines from top to bottom.

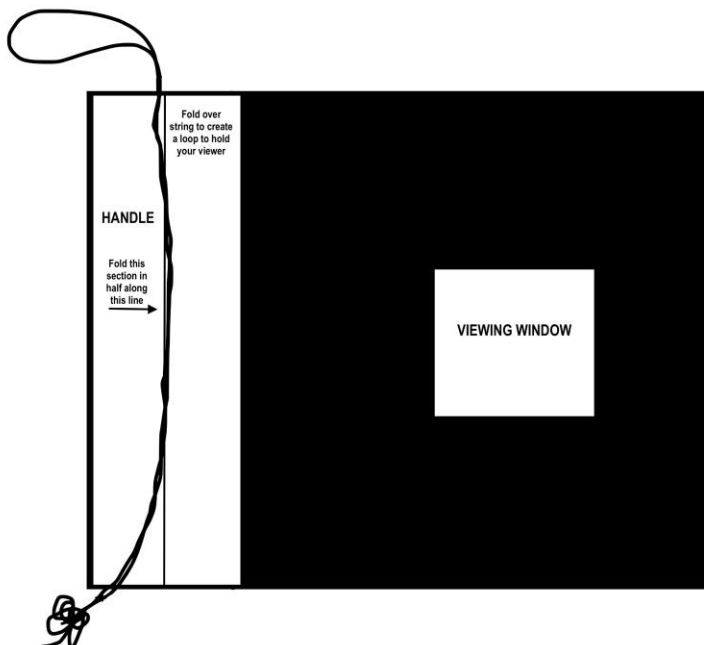
Cut out the section outlined by these lines. Take your time. You will be cutting through both sides at the same time. Ask an adult for help if you need it.



Unfold your cardboard to reveal a one inch by one inch viewing window in your cardboard.



Color in the area around your viewing window with a black crayon or marking pen. The dark background will make it easier to focus on objects in your viewing window.



You can add a string to your handle for easy carrying. This also allows you to attach your viewer to your wrist to keep from losing it. Make a string loop large enough to easily go over your hand and around your wrist. Fold your handle section of your viewer in half over the string and glue or tape it in place.