

The Three Ds

Dead, Down, & Detached: A Sustainable Way to Harvest from Nature



Overview

Every single part of plant has an important job to do, so we want to leave living plants in the Arboretum as they are. But you can still collect fun nature items from the Arboretum by looking for items that are **dead, down, and detached**. In this adventure, we'll sustainably collect items to build a fairy house!

Gear

- Basket or bag (optional)

Step 1

Let's focus on our first D: **Dead**. We want to find items that are *not living*. Working with your adult, walk up the hill through Bee Meadow (just south of the PSBA beehives) and point out 5 things that are *not living*. What did you find?

Build on: Talk with your adult about items that are dead/not living that humans shouldn't touch.

Step 2

Now let's focus on our next D: **Down**. Down means items that are down on the ground. Walking on one side of Arboretum Drive, point out 5 things that you see down on the ground. What did you find?

Step 3

It's time for our third D: **Detached**. Detached means not connected to anything else. Walking through Crab Apple Meadow (the large meadow on the east side of Arboretum Drive), collect 5-10 items that are dead, down, AND detached. You can use your bag or basket, or just carry as many items in your hands as you can hold.

***Pro tip:** Talk to your adult about which items are safe to collect.*

Step 4

Building with nature items is a great way to play with your collection. Under the trees at the far east side of Crab Apple Meadow, use your collected items to build a tiny house designed for a tree fairy. You can build around some tree roots or create a free-standing structure.

Share your artwork with your adult! After you're finished, take down your construction so that other people and animals can reuse the materials.

***Build on:** How do animals use items that are dead, down, and detached?*

Take it home: What materials exist where you live that you could use to build?