

No. 51302

# Nature Mobile Maker



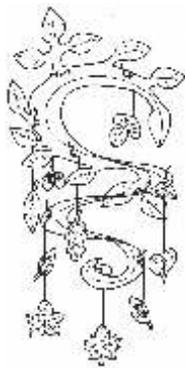
Explore the graceful nature of kinetics! Watch your mobiles twirl and dance from the classroom ceiling as they suspend lovely natural decorations. Mobiles look great in your classroom and inspire students to learn about the properties of kinetics. Why does a mobile seem to turn? What makes it turn and why? These are some of the questions you'll answer in this guide. For the first part of this guide, we show you how to put together your Nature Mobile Maker. It's super-simple!

The Nature Mobile Maker mobiles are designed to assemble easily for you and your students. Simply pop out the spiral-shaped mobile base from its backing and stretch it out. The mobile drops into a spiral shape that can be stretched out when heavier objects are suspended on it. It can be hung in two different ways: from the wider end, or the narrower center.



There is no wrong way to hang the mobile! Experiment with an orientation that works best with the objects you want to hang. Some objects may look better if the wider end of the spiral is at the bottom whereas others may look best with the wider spiral end at the top. It all depends on your preference!

The Nature Mobile Maker mobiles are designed to look like tree boughs with attached die-cut leaves. The leaves and the branches are scored so that you can fold them and add dimension to the mobile.



Decorate an elegant, fun and beautiful Nature Mobile! Each mobile is blank so you can use crayons, markers or paint to add color. Children can color in both the top and underside of the mobile.

The "no-fail" design makes each mobile easy to decorate. Look outside for decorations. Hang leaves, lightweight branches, feathers or small shells from the mobile.

Note: Suggest that your students pick nature objects that are lightweight. Altogether, the objects will weigh down their mobiles and stretch them out. To prevent the mobiles from stretching out too far, ensure that the objects your students attach to the mobiles are no heavier than a small branch.



Secure the ornaments to each mobile, by tying, taping or gluing the string to the nature objects. Hang the objects from the mobiles. The branches are cut with clever notches to secure the ornaments to the mobile without tying. Simply slide the string into the notch. Friction should hold it in place. You can change the length of the string by sliding it further through the notch. If the notch becomes too loose, tie or tape it in place.

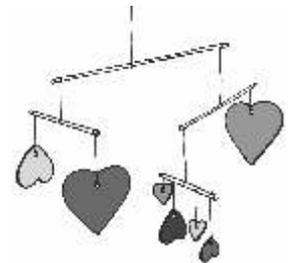
Hang our new R75504 Color Reveal Fold-Up Birds from the mobile! Tip: They work great on their own or in combination with leaves and twigs.

## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

- Explore the natural world
- Decorate mobile with nature objects
- Discover kinetics
- Observe and experiment with gravity and weight
- Learn about balance
- Build visual recognition with thematic images
- Practice literary and expository skills through storytelling
- Learn about themes, images, elements and motifs
- Observe effects of air currents
- Talk about historical relevance and enrich understanding of the world through art

Kinetics is a special term used to describe how things move. Scientists study kinetics to get an understanding of how objects in the world work. Scientists learned centuries ago that invisible air currents keep suspended objects such as mobiles constantly in motion.

The air is made up of a variety of different particles or atmospheric gases that we breathe. These atmospheric gas particles are always moving freely about. As a result, when we suspend objects in the air, the air particles bounce off the object and cause it to turn!



Ask several students to stand at different distances from the hanging mobile and take turns blowing air at it. How far back can students stand before the mobile isn't moving

anymore? Measure the distance!

Kinetic art is the word used to describe art that is three-dimensional and moves. In the early 1900s, Alexander Calder was an artist who designed unique and beautiful mobiles that moved. He referred to them as "kinetic art forms."

He used wire and balancing weights. Calder would string a single wire from the ceiling and connect the bottom of the wire to a horizontal bar. The ends of the bar would branch off into smaller bars that each clasped onto a weighted disc.

The discs could be shaped to appear like circles, teardrops, triangles, semi-circles and more. Each disc had a specific weight that Calder would arrange so that the mobile would balance evenly on both sides. If he decided to put a single heavy disc on one side of the mobile then the other side would get balanced out by 3 smaller weights. This made the mobiles very artistic and pleasing to look at.



Make your own mobile and challenge students' visual recognition skills! Ask each child to describe the shapes hanging from their mobiles. Students can write down the colors and names of each shape.

Students could discuss what the shapes have in common. Form groupings of the shapes in their mobiles and classify them by similar qualities or characteristics. Alternatively, children could partner up with a friend and observe the similarities and differences between their two mobiles.

Introduce students to visual and literary themes and motifs through their descriptive writing pieces. Themes are very general topics that mean a whole range of things using only a few words. Several example mobile themes are "seasons," "All About Me" or "school."

Motifs are the images that represent these themes in detail. For instance, a seasonal mobile may have craft paper leaves hanging from it. On one side of the mobile you could put small buds representing new leaves for spring. Bright green leaves would represent summer. A third section could have orange leaves that indicate fall. And the last section could be filled with branches that represent winter. These motifs are all part of the "seasonal" theme.

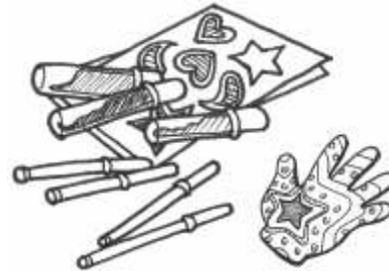
#### USE THE NATURE MOBILE MAKER WITH THESE PRODUCTS:

Combine the R51302 Nature Mobile Maker with R75504 Color Reveal Birds! Our special Color Reveal Birds are made with our



incredible Color Reveal technology! Rub some watercolor paint or marker ink over the Color Reveal portions of the birds' wings and body. These special sections will repel the ink from parts of the paper to reveal a gorgeous design!

Fold up the Color Reveal Birds according to the provided instructions. Once assembled, attach some string to the top of the birds' bodies and hang birds from the R51302 Nature Mobile Maker.



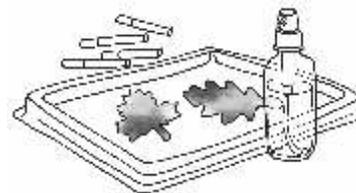
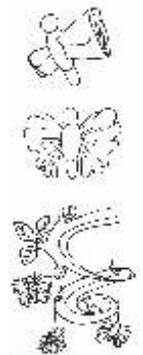
Use R51220 Hand Padlets as "All About Me" collage pieces for your students' mobiles! Use glitter glue, markers, gel pens or stickers to decorate the hands. Write the name of a family member or a friend on each of the hands. Punch a hole through the top of the padlet to thread string

through. Attach the hand padlets to the mobiles.

Our R2450 Bug Bodies complete the perfect insect mobile! Use Color Diffusing Paper to cut out wings for the bug bodies. Color the paper with markers or watercolor paint and spritz with warm water.

Once dry, slide the wings into the slit through the bug body. Tape string to the top of the bug body or thread it through the holes.

Hang the bugs at different lengths from the mobiles!



Instead of using real leaves, try our R24400 Super Value Color Diffusing Paper Leaves. Lay out the leaves on a paint tray and color in with markers or watercolor paint. Spray warm water onto the leaves and let soak for an hour until dry. Punch holes through the tops of the leaves and hang from the mobiles!

Alternatively, use our R51334 Crafty Leaves! Pop out the leaves from the die cut backing. Punch holes through the top and hang them from the mobiles using string.

Visit us at [LittleFingersBigArt.com](http://LittleFingersBigArt.com) for more crafty ideas!

Make amazing origami animals to hang from the mobile! Use our R15204 Economy Origami paper. The pack comes in a variety of solid hues and patterns for a lively display. Visit our origami page on our blog Little Fingers Big Art for instructions on how to make origami designs! Our blog videos show the large origami paper being used but the techniques are the

same for any origami paper size. Visit the origami page at  
<http://littlefingersbigart.com/2013/04/05/origami-art/>.