



Let's Use *Fairy Tales* to Inspire Kids to Explore Their Backyard

Read the stories and then try these related STEAM activities.



Grow Your Own Beanstalk

FIRST: Read or watch the Never Starting Tale of *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

NEXT: Tell kids, “you’re going to grow a plant!” Give them each two dry lima beans, a wet paper towel, and a Ziploc® brand sandwich bag. Wrap the beans in the towel and place in the bag. Tape the bag to a window for a few days. Once the beans have roots, plant them in a plastic cup with some soil.

CHALLENGE: Use the attached worksheet to record the bean plant’s growth. Consider planting other things like carrots and basil to compare growth rates.



Build Three Houses and Test Their Construction

FIRST: Read the Never Starting Tale of *Three Little Pigs*.

NEXT: Talk about how time spent in your backyard can help you to learn more about the weather. Provide kids with glue, tape, grass, sticks, and stones or pebbles. Have them build three homes (one of straw/grass, one of sticks, one of stone). Each home should be 4” tall with sides 4” wide. When the buildings are done, take them outside for testing. Bring cups of water, handheld fans, and cups of crushed ice. Let kids test their buildings by dumping the “weather” over the top and using the fan from the side. Have kids use the attached worksheet to record their observations and develop conclusions about weather conditions.

CHALLENGE: Have kids choose one time daily for a week to record the weather they observe in their backyard. Help them investigate the weather in other places for the same time period.



Create a Map Featuring Natural Backyard Landmarks

FIRST: Read the Never Starting Tale of *Little Red Riding Hood*.

NEXT: Show kids what a map looks like and how it works. Talk with them about why natural landmarks can be helpful (think: turn at the big oak tree). Walk with kids through the backyard to observe possible landmarks. Then, have them draw a quick map showing how to get from one location to another. Have them gather a couple of items to use as natural landmarks, like a leaf and a stone. When they come back inside, they will use their sketch and their items to create a more detailed map, including written step-by-step directions.

CHALLENGE: Have kids create different maps of the backyard with directions. Ask household members to follow the maps to see if they are accurate.



You Can Grow a Beanstalk, Too!

Plant Drawing	Measurement	Observation

Take some measurements of other plants. What else do you notice?







WE ARE
TEACHERS



Read more stories at NeverStartingTales.com



How Does the Weather Affect the Way a House Is Built?

Record your observations	 Water	 Wind	 Snow
 Straw			
 Sticks			
 Stone			

Which house would you have built? Why?

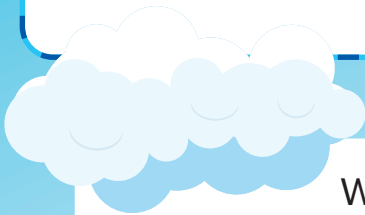
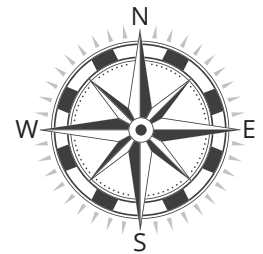
How do you think weather changes which materials are used to build a house?

What kind of weather (sun, rain, or snow) do you like to play in outside? Why?





My Backyard Map



Write directions for getting from one place
in your backyard to another.

Now go test your directions!

WE ARE
TEACHERS



Read more stories at NeverStartingTales.com