



Discover, Draw, and Build!



# DISCOVER SUMMER

from the Library and Our Partners



1/31



Hamilton County  
cincinnati  
public  
library



9  
AMAZING  
ACTIVITIES

elementary  
ages 6-12



# Welcome!

We're so glad you picked up our second annual summer booklet for elementary school students. It's designed to help kids learn about themselves and the world around them, all while having fun!

## New This Year

We've included activities from a variety of organizations in Cincinnati and Hamilton County that offer great things for kids and their families. Some are places you may have visited often in the past, and some may be new to you. This booklet is a great way to learn more about what's available to you and your family right here in Greater Cincinnati.



Discover more ways to celebrate summer in Cincinnati and Hamilton County at **CincySummer.org**! This web page is meant to be a one-stop spot for you to find out about all kinds of fun learning opportunities happening this summer throughout the city and county.



*Paula Brehm-Heeger*

Paula Brehm-Heeger  
Eva Jane Romaine Coombe Library Director



p.s. Show us the activity you enjoyed the most by tagging **#cincysummer** on social media!

## Complete Activities, Earn Prizes!

Complete 5 of the activities in this book. Then, fill out an entry form at any Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library location or log your activities online at [CincinnatiLibrary.org/summer](http://CincinnatiLibrary.org/summer) for a chance to win a great prize! Prizes include gift cards, LEGO sets, art supplies and more.

### Did you complete all 8 activities in this booklet?

You are eligible for a second entry in our prize drawing!

Winners will be drawn in August 2021.

Entrants must be age 18 or younger.



## Visit [CincySummer.org](http://CincySummer.org)

Have a summer bucket list? You will! Find out about the coolest events for kids and families around Cincinnati and Hamilton County this summer!

## Discover It with a Discovery Pass

Enjoy free visits to our county's amazing arts, cultural, and recreational attractions with the Library's Discovery Pass program. Make an online reservation today!

[CinLib.org/discovery-pass](http://CinLib.org/discovery-pass)

## Free Meals for Kids at Select Libraries

The Library offers free meal boxes throughout the summer. This service is provided by UMC Food Ministry and made possible through federal funding, as part of the USDA's Child Nutrition Programs. Visit our website for times and locations.

[CinLib.org/meals](http://CinLib.org/meals)

## WiFi at the Library

Looking for a relaxing place to access the internet? Stop by the Downtown Main Library or our branch libraries.

[CinLib.org/wifi](http://CinLib.org/wifi)

41 locations · No late fees · 229+ databases · Millions of books, movies, music & more



Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library  
800 Vine St.  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
513-369-6900  
[CincinnatiLibrary.org](http://CincinnatiLibrary.org)

# Cincinnati Chicken Clucker

Mix a little bit of science with music for a lot of fun!

## WHAT YOU NEED

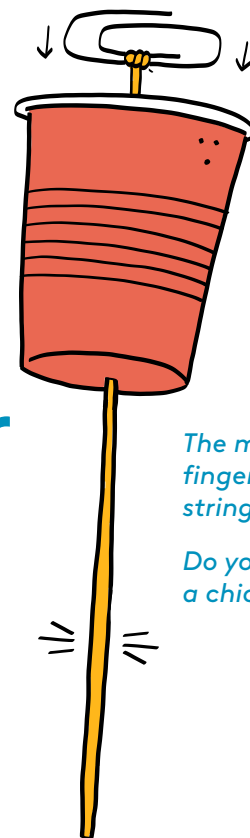
- One disposable cup
- One piece of string, about 10 inches long
- One standard size paperclip
- Small bowl with about a cup of water

*Be careful when you poke the hole in your cup. You may need an adult to help!*

## ACTIVITY

1. Make a small hole in the bottom of the cup.
2. Thread the string through the hole in the cup.
3. Tie the paperclip onto the end of the string inside the cup.
4. Tug on the string outside the cup until the string is snug. The paperclip should stop the string from slipping through the hole.
5. Dip the portion of the string outside the cup into the bowl of water until the string is damp. Remove the string from the bowl.
6. Hold the cup firmly in one hand. With your other hand, position two fingers on either side of the string next to the cup. Pinch the two fingers while sliding them down the long end of the string.

This activity is provided by:



*The motion of your fingers sliding down the string creates friction.*

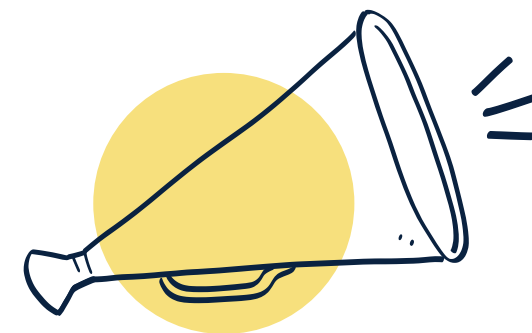
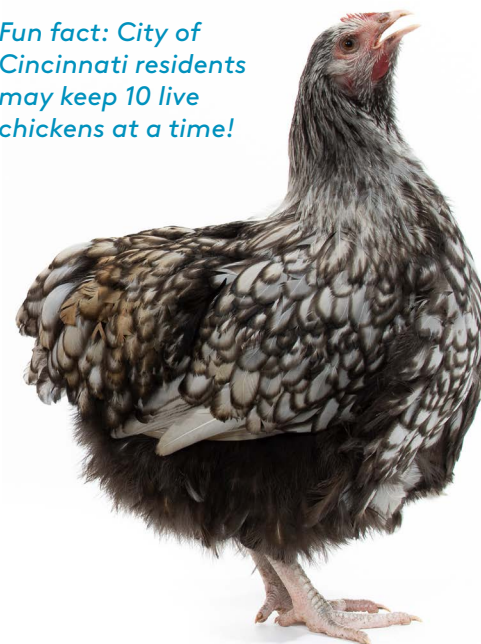
*Do you hear a chicken clucking?*



*Experiment with different thicknesses of string – or ribbon!*



*Fun fact: City of Cincinnati residents may keep 10 live chickens at a time!*



*The cup acts as a resonator. It amplifies the sound created by the vibrations.*

## DISCOVER MORE



Learn the science of music with these fun reads!  
[CinLib.org/music-science](http://CinLib.org/music-science)



Want to learn to sing, play a musical instrument, dance, or act?  
University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music's preparatory faculty can teach you this and a lot more!  
[ccm.uc.edu/arts4all/prep.html](http://ccm.uc.edu/arts4all/prep.html)

# Neighborhood Nature Journal

Discover and record the natural world around you!

## WHAT YOU NEED

- 6 pieces of 8 ½ by 11 paper (one can be a colorful sheet for the cover if you want)
- A few crayons or markers
- Hard surface to draw and write on
- Old towel or blanket for sitting on (optional)
- Stapler with at least two staples

## ACTIVITY

1. Fold the pieces of paper in half and nest them inside each other. If using a colorful sheet, use it on the outside as your cover.
2. Staple along the fold to make a small book.
3. Gather your book and crayons or markers. Find a quiet place to sit outside with trees, grass, bushes, flowers, rocks or water. Sit for five minutes.
  - Take some deep breaths and close your eyes if you want.
  - Relax, listen and smell the spot you are sitting in.
  - Open your eyes and look around, keep listening and smelling.
4. How many different living items can you see, hear, or smell? These items can be plants, animals, or even fungi! Write down or draw these items on a page in your journal.
5. Visit the same spot three more times during the summer. *Did the area you initially observed change from visit to visit?* Fill the blank pages in your journal with your observations.

This activity is provided by:



“A Sit Spot is a special area that you choose outdoors. Have a seat, settle in, and watch the world around you.”  
- *Put On Your Owl Eyes* by Devin Franklin

Borrow *Put On Your Owl Eyes*: [CinLib.org/owl-eyes](http://CinLib.org/owl-eyes)



Draw a picture of yourself in your Sit Spot.



Take pictures and share with us:  
**#cincysummer** on social media

## DISCOVER MORE



Looking for a great place to observe nature? Great Parks of Hamilton County's 21 parks and preserves are open from dawn to dusk, 365 days a year. [GreatParks.org](http://GreatParks.org)



# Charley Harper: Symmetry in Art

Make a piece of art like world-famous Cincinnati artist Charley Harper!

## WHAT YOU NEED

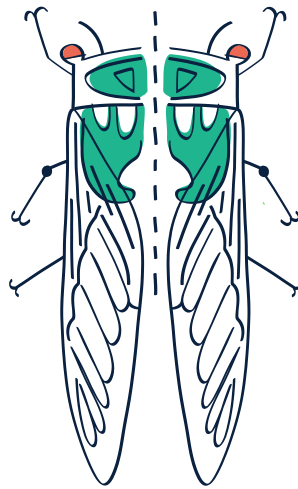
- 6 pieces of 8 ½ by 11 paper (including a colorful sheet for the cover, if you'd like)
- Pencil with dark lead
- Crayons or markers
- Stapler
- Hard surface to draw on (like a notebook, clipboard, or cutting board)

## ACTIVITY

1. Take a piece of paper and fold it in half. Unfold it.
2. Inside the fold, on one half of the paper, draw a design with a pencil.
3. Fold your paper in half along the original fold line. Use your pencil on the back of the paper to trace the design you drew. (You should faintly see the design through the back of the paper. This will help you know where to draw.) This process will transfer and reflect some of the lead from your original lines across the fold line, creating a symmetrical drawing.
4. Open the folded paper. You should have a symmetrical drawing!
5. Finish your artwork by adding color to your symmetrical drawing.
6. Repeat steps 1 through 4, creating different designs each time.
7. Nest the sheets of paper with your artwork and staple them together.

*Congrats, you've made a book of symmetrical drawings!*

This activity is provided by:

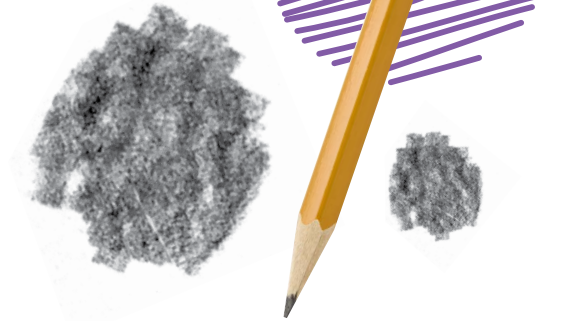


*This project uses reflection, also known as bilateral symmetry. The left and right sides of your drawings should look exactly the same!*



*Can you find a symmetrical food or object in nature?*

*Having a hard time transferring the lead? Your original drawing could be too light.*



*Artist Charley Harper simplified and balanced his designs by taking hints from nature.*

## DISCOVER MORE



Looking for some big examples of symmetry in nature? Explore Dinosaur Hall at the Museum of Natural History & Science at the Cincinnati Museum Center!  
[CincyMuseum.org](http://CincyMuseum.org)



# Alien Slime

It's an out-of-this-world stress-reliever!

## WHAT YOU NEED

- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of glue (nontoxic)
- 1.5 tablespoons of contact lens solution
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon of baking soda
- Bowl for mixing ingredients
- Water (optional)
- Protective covering for your table
- Storage container

*Adult supervision is recommended! Some people can have skin reactions to various ingredients!*

## ACTIVITY

1. Put down the protective covering for your table because this craft can get messy!
2. Pour the glue into your bowl.
3. Pour  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon of baking soda in the bowl and mix it with the glue.

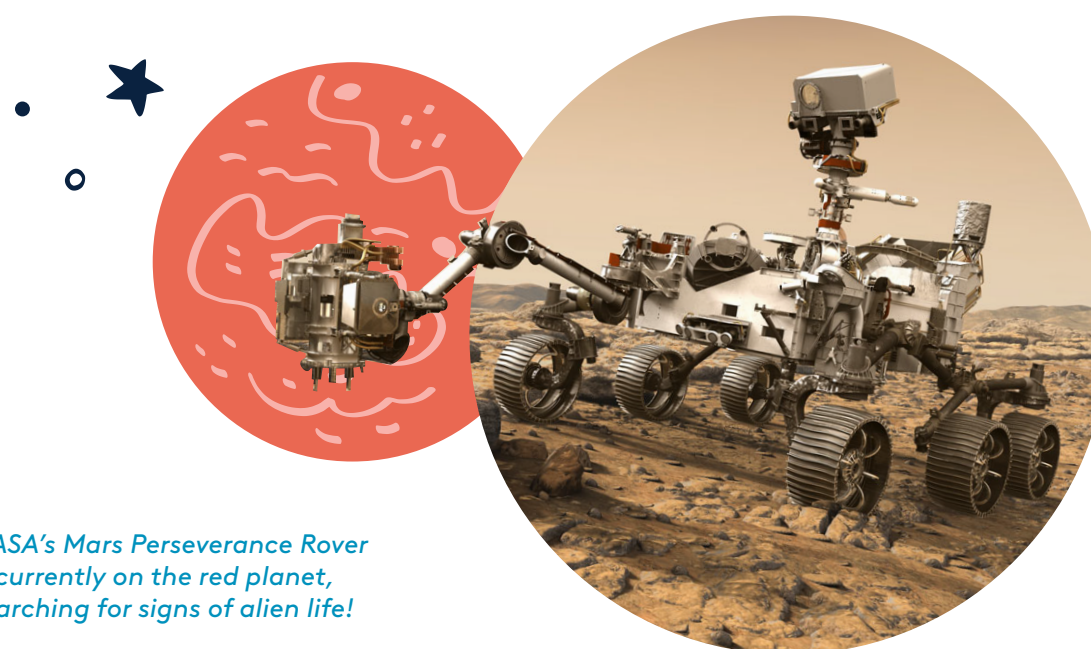
*Optional: If you want your slime to be extra stretchy, mix the baking soda into a  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of water before you add it to the glue.*

4. Slowly start pouring contact solution into the bowl while mixing. You may not need all of the contact solution in your mixture, so take your time. If you add too much contact solution, your slime will not stretch!
5. To mix everything together further, knead the slime in your hands for a few minutes. If your slime is too wet even after kneading, add more baking soda. If your slime is too sticky, add more contact solution.
6. Test out your slime!

This activity is provided by:



*For extra fun, look for glue that glows-in-the-dark or add some glitter to make slime that's out of this world!*



*NASA's Mars Perseverance Rover is currently on the red planet, searching for signs of alien life!*

## DISCOVER MORE



Read more about space in a book by the Cincinnati Observatory's own Dean Regas!  
[CinLib.org/regas](http://CinLib.org/regas)



Check out the Cincinnati Observatory's virtual space themed programs for kids. They're free!  
[CincinnatiObservatory.org/events](http://CincinnatiObservatory.org/events)

# Music and Emotion

See how listening to different types of music impacts your mood.

## WHAT YOU NEED

- Pencil, pen, markers, or colored pencils
- Emotion chart (Provided on opposite page)
- Blank emotion cards (Provided on opposite page)

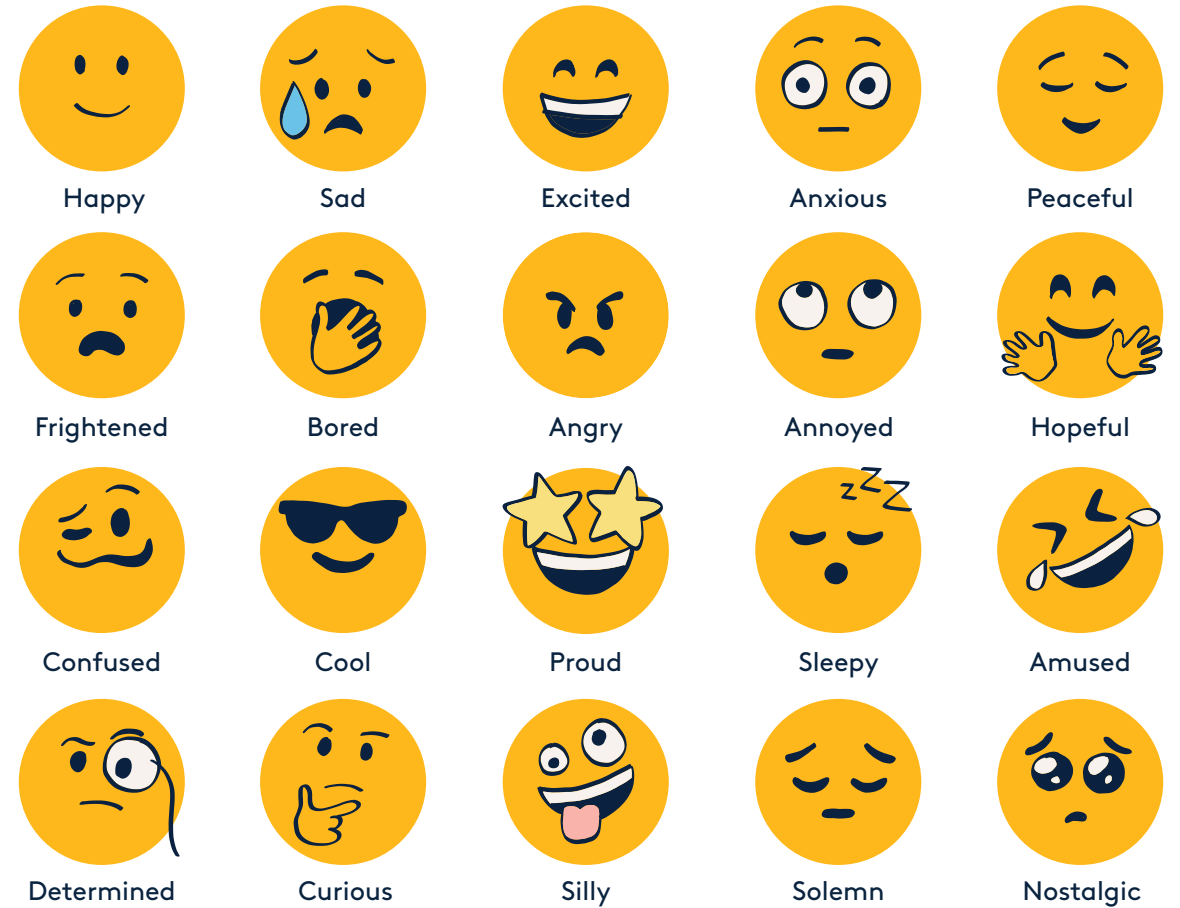
## ACTIVITY

1. Listen to at least three different pieces of classical music:
  - If you have access to a radio, tune to 90.9 FM, WGUC.
  - If you have access to the internet, listen to music by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra online, either on their YouTube Channel ([YouTube.com/CSOvideo](https://www.youtube.com/CSOvideo)) or on their Spotify channel ([CinLib.org/cso-spotify](https://www.cinlib.org/cso-spotify)).
  - If you're at the Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library, check out a Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra recording. The Library has CDs, records, and options for streaming and downloading music!
2. Look at the emotion chart on the opposite page while you listen to the music. Identify which emotions you feel when you listen to each piece of music.
3. Make three of your own emotion-reaction cards by drawing one emotion expression in each of the blank circles on the opposite page.
4. Now, choose some music and react in real time by pointing to the emotion you feel on your emotion-reaction cards.

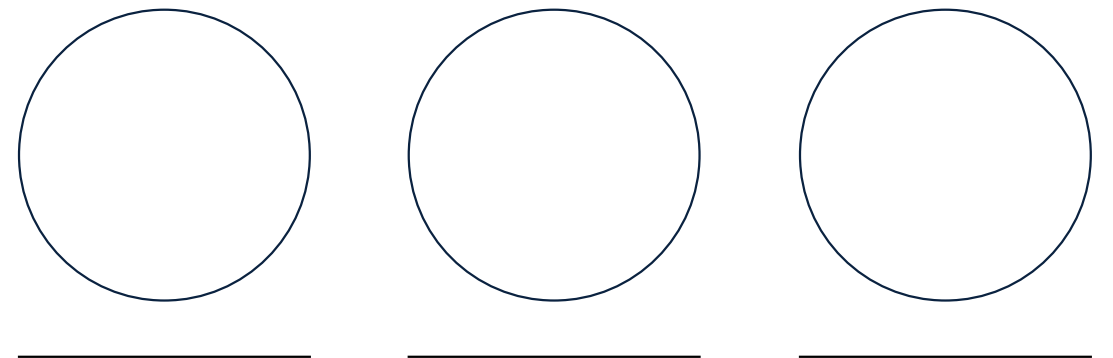


*Why do you think a particular piece of music makes you feel a certain way?*

This activity is provided by:



*How do your emotions change when you listen to different music?*



## DISCOVER MORE



Stream and download music from the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra on Hoopla or Freegal, free with a library card.  
[CinLib.org/stream](https://www.cinlib.org/stream)



# The Floor is Hot!!

Avoid the lava while focusing on positive emotions.

## WHAT YOU NEED

- 10 pieces of construction paper
- A few markers
- One roll of painter's tape

*Hey adults! Your supervision is recommended.  
After taping the construction paper to the floor, make sure it does not slide easily.*

## ACTIVITY

1. Using nine of the 10 pieces of construction paper, write a different question to encourage positive self-talk on each piece of construction paper. Examples of questions include:
  - What I like about myself is...
  - I am unique because...
  - Something that makes me smile is...
  - A time I was forgiving was...
  - I can make others happy by...
  - At school, I enjoy...
  - A time when I was kind was...
2. Write 'Finish' on the last piece of construction paper.
3. Use painter's tape to tape the pieces of construction paper to the floor. The distances between the pieces of paper can be as close as or far away as you'd like. You might want to make them a good "hop" away from each other.
4. In this game, we will pretend the floor is made of lava and it's too hot to touch! To avoid touching the floor, players should jump from one piece of paper to another. To get to the Finish point, players can take any route they would like.
5. Players must answer the questions written on the pages they have landed upon before they can move forward.

*It's time to play! Can you avoid the hot lava?*

*We all feel many emotions: happy, sad, excited, scared, angry, tired, disappointed, proud.  
We are allowed to feel all of these different ways!*

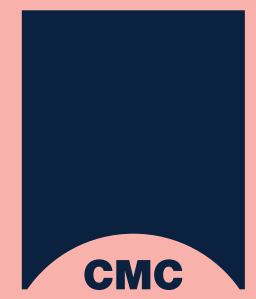
*What can you tell yourself to feel good every day?*

A large white rectangular area with horizontal blue lines, intended for writing answers to the question above.

*llll*

*Hey adults, if encouragement is needed, demonstrate an example for those who are playing. You can also play along and provide your own answers!*

This activity is provided by:



## DISCOVER MORE



Find cool online activities on the Cincinnati Museum Center's website: [CincyMuseum.org/online-resources/](https://www.cincymuseum.org/online-resources/)

Enjoy a program at the Cincinnati Museum Center, free with a membership or with the purchase of a ticket. Cincinnati Museum Center is a proud participant in Museums for All.





# Make Your Own Constellation

A constellation is an imaginary picture made out of stars!

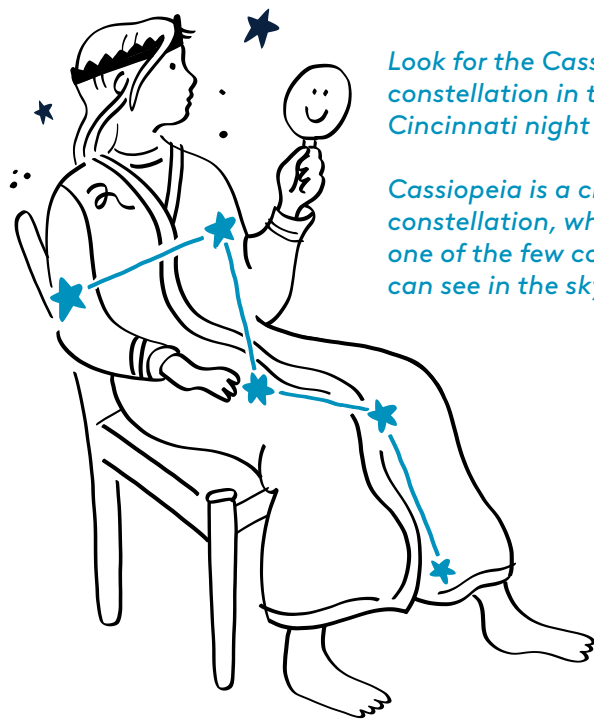
## WHAT YOU NEED

- A few crayons, colored pencils, markers, or other coloring items

## ACTIVITY

Using the stars on the opposite page, connect the dots to create your own constellation.

You can draw anything you want! Draw a place, your favorite food, or maybe even your favorite animal!



*Look for the Cassiopeia constellation in the Greater Cincinnati night sky.*

*Cassiopeia is a circumpolar constellation, which means it is one of the few constellations you can see in the sky all year long.*

This activity is provided by:



## DISCOVER MORE



Join Cincinnati Observatory's virtual space-themed classes for kids! They're free!  
[CincinnatiObservatory.org/events/](https://CincinnatiObservatory.org/events/)



Learn more about constellations with a library book or eBook!  
[CinLib.org/constellations](https://CinLib.org/constellations)



# Great American Toad Abode

Left to their own devices, toads will take shelter under fallen leaves and twigs. You can help!

## WHAT YOU NEED

- Five or six straight sticks, found outside
- 2 pieces of yarn, each about 6" long
- A handful of leaves

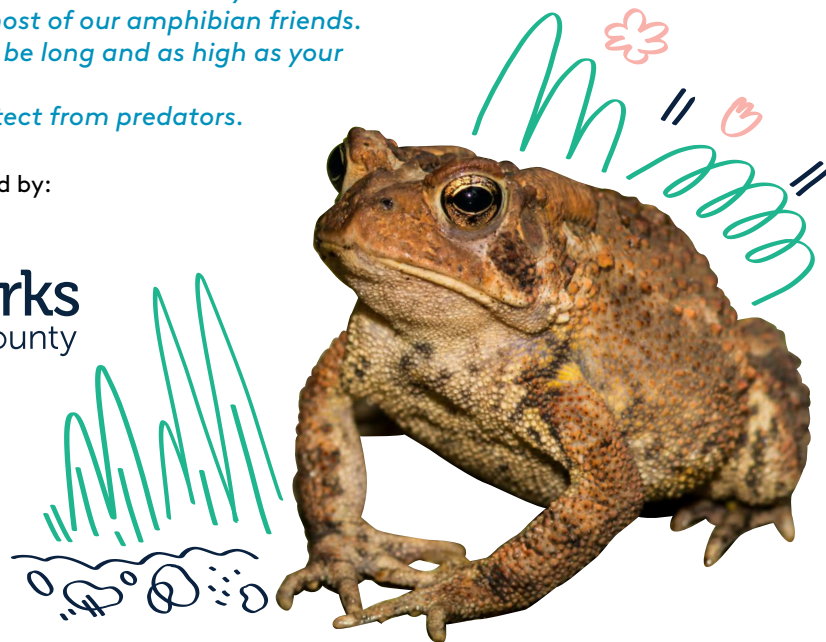
## ACTIVITY

1. Press two of the straight sticks into the ground and cross them at the top.
2. Use some yarn to tie them together.
3. Add more sticks to build out your abode frame. Tie them together.
4. Cover the outside with leaves. Make sure the leaf cover is secure! Try poking the leaves through the top ends of the sticks and sliding the leaves down the sticks.
5. Place your toad abode in a shady place outdoors near water and away from domestic pets.

*Some things to remember about your toad abode:*

- *Make sure there's food and water nearby!*
- *Shady is better for most of our amphibian friends.*
- *The entrance should be long and as high as your longest finger.*
- *Cover the top to protect from predators.*

This activity is provided by:



What other kinds of insects or animals might visit your toad abode?  
Draw a scene below, showing them enjoying the abode!

## DISCOVER MORE



Go toad hunting at one of the Great Parks of Hamilton County. Some great wooded trails include Timberlakes Trail in Miami Whitewater Forest, Kingfisher Trail in Winton Woods, or the Gorge Trail at Sharon Woods, just to name a few!  
[GreatParks.org](http://GreatParks.org)



Are you familiar with the fictional amphibian pals Frog and Toad? Borrow or stream a classic Frog and Toad book free with your library card.  
[CinLib.org/frogtoad](http://CinLib.org/frogtoad)



# Flying Pig Superhero Coding

Direct your superhero to the finish using the power of code!

## WHAT YOU NEED

- One pad of 100 sticky notes or paper squares
- One pen, pencil, or marker
- One object to use as your Flying Pig superhero (should be able to fit on top of a sticky note!)
- Three coins
- Three household objects to use as your obstacles (should be able to fit on top of a sticky note!)

## ACTIVITY

This activity needs two players! Use basic programming ideas and commands to direct your superhero to the finish while avoiding obstacles and collecting coins.

1. Set up your game board:
  - Lay out sticky notes or paper squares on a flat surface in a 10 by 10 grid.
  - Choose one household object to represent your Flying Pig superhero.
  - Choose household objects to represent three 3 obstacles.
  - Player 1 should mark one square as the start and a different square as the finish.
  - Place the "obstacles" and the "coins" in any box.
2. Now, start playing:
  - Player 2 writes the "code" for the Flying Pig one box at a time using the commands "Forward, Turn Left, Turn Right" on paper. (ex. Forward 3, Turn left 1, Forward 2, etc.)
  - Give the "code" back to Player 1 and have them move the Flying Pig superhero through the course according to the commands.
  - If the Flying Pig superhero cannot complete the course or runs into an "obstacle" have Player 2 go back and correct their commands!
3. Switch roles and play as many times as you'd like!

Why was it important to write precise code for the Flying Pig superhero?

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Coding involves trial and error! How did you update your code during the game?

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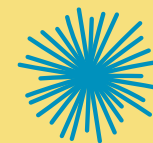
Computer programs try to solve problems with as little code as possible.  
Can you think of a way to improve your code with fewer steps?

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Switch roles and play as many times as you'd like!

This activity is provided by:



## DISCOVER MORE



Check out even more family STEM activities!  
[GreaterCincySTEM.org](http://GreaterCincySTEM.org)



Get more coding experience at [Code.org](http://Code.org) and [HourofCode.com](http://HourofCode.com)!





# A big thank you to our supporters!

The Discover Summer program is made possible through the support of these donors.



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