

Get Outside!



October's

the month
When the smallest breeze
Gives us a shower
Of autumn leaves.
Bonfires and pumpkins,
Leaves sailing down -
October is **red**
And **golden** and **brown**.

Seeds are funny, funny things,
Some have stickers
Some have wings
Some are big
Some are small
Some round and flat
Some like a ball.
Some are hidden inside of fruit
Some in pods or underground roots.
Some seeds are foods
And good to eat,
Like corn or beans
Or nuts for a treat.



Some Squirrely Facts

A squirrel's brain is about the size of a walnut.

A squirrel will break the shell of a nut with its teeth, then clean the nut by licking it or rubbing it on its face before it is buried. Doint that applies a scent to the nut which will help the squirrel find it later, even under several inches of snow.

The average squirrel needs to eat about a pound of food a week to remain active .

A squirrel's teeth grows continuously, but stays short because the animal is constantly gnawing.

Getting Creative with Seeds

Make a Seed Mosaic

MATERIALS

Paper : Use cardstock, construction paper, paper bag, or a similar material.

Glue

Seeds: You'll need a variety - use beans, popcorn kernals, birdseed, sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, maple seeds, acorn caps, etc.

Toothpicks

Markers, crayons, colored pencils, or paint

STEPS TO MAKE IT

- >Draw an outline of the picture you want to make. You can choose to do an animal, like a bird or deer, fall scene, or whatever you want.
- >Think about what seeds you want to use where on your picture.
- >Doing a small section at a time, place glue on your picture and arrange the seeds accordingly. Use a toothpick to help move small seeds around.
- >You can fill in parts of your picture with crayon, colored pencil or paint.





Do Skunks Hibernate?

Henry Knows!

As the air turns chilly and blankets of snow are anticipated, animals begin repairing for the winter season. Some migrate and others eat lots of food to accumulate fat layers for hibernating. Many will remain active during the winter and may grow thicker hair or store food. Some animals sleep for long periods of time, but wake up now and then to eat or go potty or to check things out on a warmer winter day.

So where do the odorous rodents we've dubbed skunks fit in? They do not hibernate, but do spend much of the time dozing, surviving on fat stores. Several skunks may gather together and share the same den. They leave their winter abode for short periods of time during warm weather. In a true hibernator, the metabolism, body temperature, and breathing rate of the animal is much lower and they go into a very deep sleep.



What did the judge say when the skunk walked into the court room?

"Odor in the court!"

Little Traverse Conservancy
3264 Powell Road
Harbor Springs, MI. 49740

Explore a Nature Preserve!

Allan and Virginia McCune

Follow the marked trails through the northern hardwood forest, meadow, and wetlands at this 168 acre preserve in Emmet County. Boardwalks allow you to walk through the wetlands and a footbridge brings you over the beautiful Minnehaha Creek that flows through the preserve on its way to Crooked Lake. Enjoy looking for evidence of animals, listening to the babbling creek and observing the colorful leaves during a fall visit here.



How to Get There: From Petoskey take Mitchell Road east about 7 miles to Maxwell Road. Turn right and go 3/4 mile to the parking area on the right side of the road.