

Are you looking for something to do to keep your brain active and engaged? We're here to help with Science at Home! You can do these fun science activities using commonly found items. You can also visit us at the Museum's [Science at Home](#) page for additional resources.

## Nature Memory Game



Photo 1



Photo 2

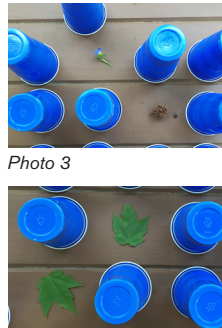


Photo 3



### Materials Needed:

#### 2 opaque containers

*(cups, paper bowls, small boxes, etc.)*

You can use more pairs to make the game more challenging.

#### 6 (or more) matching pairs of natural items

*These could be leaves, seeds, rocks, insects, flowers, etc.*

### Instructions:

1. Go on a nature hunt to find natural items small enough to put inside each container. You will need at least two of each item in order to make a match. *(Photo 1)*
2. Once you have collected a pair of each natural item, place one of each item into the 12 containers you are using. You can then turn the container over or make small lids to cover the containers. *(Photo 2)*
3. Shuffle the containers so the items are randomized.
4. Place the game containers on the table in three rows of four containers.
5. The first *(or only)* player picks a container and opens or lifts it, exposing the item.
6. Another container is selected to try to match the item found in the first container. Each item can be picked up to explore the item only after it has been exposed. *(Photo 3)*
7. If the items selected do not match, the items are covered and are kept in the same place that they were originally found.
8. If the items inside match, the player that found the match gets to keep the items. Place the containers off to the side. Take the time to explore and identify the items. *(Photo 4)*
9. The idea is to try to remember the item that is found in each container, and where it is, in order to make a match.
10. When a match is made during gameplay, the player that makes the match gets to take another turn.
11. The memory match game is over when all the nature items have been matched up, or, paired together.

### What We've Learned

This DIY memory match game can also be used to teach scientific nomenclature, improve language skills, and used in conjunction with field guides or other identification resources. The Nature Memory game can be played with one or two players. Use seasonal items or items found in a specific place such as the beach, forest, desert, etc. Take it on trips or any vacation; it is very portable (*12 opaque containers such as cups*) with the game pieces being any found objects! Invite players to describe the similarities and differences between the items during play or after play. Teach classification skills by having players place items in their scientific groups (*Class, Order, Family, etc.*).

### Having Fun?

We want to see! Tag [@naturalsciences](#) on social media, so we can see you and your loved ones enjoying our Science at Home activities.