

MUSEUM AT HOME

Nature Tic-Tac-Toe

Sticks and stones may break your bones, but here's a better idea: use them to create a game of tic-tac-toe!

What You Need:

- Collection of twigs and pebbles from outside
- Scissors
- Twist ties (the kind that come with garbage bags)
- Optional: Acrylic paint and paintbrushes or permanent markers



What You Do:

1. Look at the collection of twigs, sticks, driftwood and small round pebbles or stones. You and your child will need at least four sticks of around the same length, several smaller sticks (around ten smaller sticks, each about three inches in length), and around ten pebbles or stones.
2. After you choose from the collected materials, help your child create an outdoorsy tic-tac-toe game. You can arrange the four long sticks in a tic-tac-toe grid pattern.
3. Have your child use the twist ties to attach the sticks together at the four places where they intersect in the grid. You will wrap one twist tie around each intersection point.
4. For the tic-tac-toe Xs, you can cross two smaller same-size sticks in an 'X' pattern and attach them together with a twist tie, repeating to create several more Xs. You and your child may also use some pebbles and paint (or write with permanent marker) an X on five of the pebbles instead of using the sticks.
5. If you used sticks as Xs, he can use plain pebbles as Os. If you decided to use pebbles as Xs, you will want to label some other pebbles as Os by painting or writing an 'O' on them with a permanent marker.
6. Now you and your child can play tic-tac-toe! Most kids know the rules for this game, but a parent can review the rules if needed. Take one of the plastic zipper bags and store the game in it. You may keep the game that you made. Take it with you. It is a perfect game for bringing along on outdoor picnics or camping trips!