



Make woodland book ends

Craft a pair of animal friends to keep your books organised.

What you need

- Cardboard plates
- Scissors
- Masking tape or sticky tape
- Plastic bags
- Small stones, gravel, sand or dried beans
- Paints/paintbrush
- Jars or containers
- Newspaper
- Card
- Paper
- Glue

TOP TIP

Use more newspaper with tape to make a body shape taller, wider or to reshape uneven areas.

Autumn is a lovely time to go on a woodland walk but it's also a great time to snuggle up indoors with a book. This activity means you can bring a little bit of the outside inside by making nature-inspired book ends. The steps below show you how to make a fox and an owl, each perched on a tree stump. However, the basic shapes you'll create can be made into any of your favourite creatures. You can create different animals by taping newspaper pieces to make heads, noses, feet and tails, and cut out card for wings or ears.

The trick is to make your book ends as heavy as possible so that they can hold up your books. The heavier the books, the heavier the book ends will need to be. You can create two logs and tape them together if you need to hold up tall books. To add weight inside the bodies, you can fill jars, yoghurt pots, plant pots or cardboard tubes with stones, using tape to secure them inside.



1 To make a log, cut the edges of two cardboard plates into flaps. Fold the flaps on one plate, then tape to make a basket for the base.



2 Place a plastic bag filled with stones or sand inside the base. Press the bag so the contents spread evenly. Add more if there's space.



3 Place the second plate on top, fold the flaps down, then tape around the edge. Wrap more tape across the middle and underneath.



4 Make a second log in the same way with two more plates. Paint both bases to make them look more like logs and leave them to dry.



5 To make an owl's body, fill a jar with small stones, then fit the lid. Wrap the jar with two or three sheets of newspaper.



6 Press the newspaper into a tight flat-bottomed egg shape, then wrap with more tape. Repeat step 5 and step 6 to make a fox's body.



7 Make a head, legs and tail by rolling up paper. Use tape to help shape them and stick to the body. Tape on ears cut from card.



8 Paint the animal shapes or cover with paper pieces glued on top. When dry, sit the animals on the logs and place on your bookshelf.

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