

# RAFT IDEAS

**Topics:** Environments,  
Scientific Observations,  
Ecology, Geography

## Materials List

- ✓ Matte board
- ✓ File folder
- ✓ Ribbon
- ✓ Beads (optional)
- ✓ Thick rubber band
- ✓ Paper or light card stock ~21 cm x 28 cm (8 ½" x 5 ½")
- ✓ Hole punch
- ✓ Paper clips or binder clips

This activity can be used to support the teaching of:

- Writing Applications, narratives and descriptions (CA English-Language Arts Standards: Writing Strand, 2.0; Grade 1 and above)
- Observation Skills (CA Science Standards: All Grades, Investigation & Experimentation Strand)

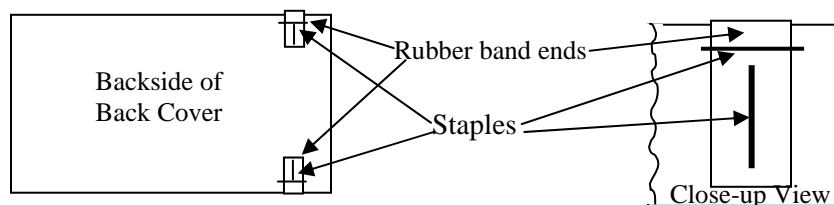
## Clipboard Book

For Outdoor Observations



## Assembly

1. Cut a 14 cm x 21 cm (5½" x 8½") front cover out of the file folder, and a 14 cm x 21 cm (5½" x 8½") back cover out of matte board.
2. Cut the rubber band open. On the backside of the back cover (matte board), staple one end of the rubber band to the top, right corner using two staples in a "T" shape (see image below). Staple the other end of the rubber band to the bottom, right corner using the same technique.



3. Put the pages between the covers and hold them in place with either paper clips or binder clips, except on the side you are going to bind. Leave the clips in place until the book is complete.
4. Punch holes for the binding using a hole punch or binding machine. If available, a 2-hole punch is easiest to use.
5. Thread the ribbon through the top hole and tie a double knot. (Optional: Leave a "tail" and add beads at this point.) Thread the ribbon through the next hole from the front side of the book. Continue until you get to the last hole; bring the ribbon through and knot it several times.
6. When not in use, secure the book pages and front cover under the rubber band.

## To Do and Notice

Fill the pages of the journal with thoughts, drawings, poems, plant rubbings, and observations from day or overnight journeys to the great outdoors.

## The Content Behind the Activity

People have been collecting and recording thoughts, ideas, and information in written form for millennia. Although not always taking present-day book form (e.g. – clay tablets, scrolls), the concept of recording information in a book for remote retrieval was truly a giant leap for humankind. Major developments in book history include the first alphabets (appearing around 1000 b.c.) and mechanical printing (1455 a.d. by Johannes Gutenberg) that helped spark the European Renaissance. Many famous naturalists, including Charles Darwin and Meriwether Lewis, used journal drawings and notes as a means of collecting information.

**Web Resources** - Visit [www.raft.net/more](http://www.raft.net/more) for how-to videos and more ideas!