

Firefly Jars

MATERIALS:

- Recycled jar (this can be an old jam or pickle jar, about a quart)
- Mesh screen or thin fabric, cut to a little larger than the size of the lid
- Rubber bands to secure mesh or fabric (if you don't have a jar with a lid ring)
- A handful of leaves (collected with an adult's help)
- Patience

ACTIVITY:

- Take your firefly jar and lid, and gently place some of the leaves in the bottom of the jar. You're not trying to cram leaves in, and you want to leave plenty of room for the fireflies!
- Just before dusk, find a nice grassy area to start your search. If you wait until too late in the evening, you won't be able to see the fireflies, only their lights!
- To catch the bugs, simply put your flat, open hand near where they're flying. Fireflies will happily land on an open hand, and explore for a little, so there's no need to try to squeeze them, or catch them in your fist.
- To deposit the fireflies into the jar, tap your hand over the mouth of the jar, and they should fall in.
- cover the jar with the fabric or mesh, and secure with a rubber band or the lid ring!

Pro tip: To get the most glow, make sure you catch both male and female fireflies. The males are probably the ones flying around, while you'll find females resting in the grass!

