



## Make a Specimen Bracelet

**Materials:** duck tape, clear packing tape, scissors, small plant specimen, magnifying glass (optional)

**Background Information:** A **specimen** is an individual animal, plant, or piece of a natural material that can be used as an example of its species or type for scientific study or display. Generally speaking, it is a good idea to keep native wildlife in its natural habitat, but specimen collections are useful for scientific observation and study and are ok to do on a limited basis.

**STEM Career Connection:** A **botanist** is a scientist who studies plants, including flowering plants, and plant-like things such as moss and seaweed. Botanists study plant growth, structure, and uses.

### Challenge:

1. Gather materials.
2. Discuss what a specimen is.
3. Place duck tape around the wrist of each participant like a bracelet with the sticky side out.
4. Go for a nature walk or hike. During the hike, collect small plant specimens and add them to the specimen bracelet.
5. Upon completing the hike and filling the specimen bracelet, cut the bracelet off the participant and cover it with packing tape to seal in the specimens.
6. Make observations of the specimens using magnifying glasses (optional) and sketch and label some of the specimens in a nature journal or on a piece of paper. As a group, discuss the specimens and try to name or identify the different plants and flowers found.
7. Creations can be used to decorate a nature journal, as a bookmark, or as a take home item from the experience.