



BUG STONES TUTORIAL

BY TARA RONDINELLI

There is something special about a stone. Each one is unique in its own way and has its own story to tell. We love stones and use them for a variety of crafting and learning activities in our home. For this tutorial, I want to share our sweet little bug stones that we make every spring.

These stones make the perfect additions to our ever-growing story stone collection. Story stones are a fun way to introduce the art of storytelling to people of all ages. This is an important skill that encourages creativity, helps sharpen the memory, and improves listening skills in young children. We like to grab one stone at a time to help retell our outdoor adventures or inspire make believe stories. We add our bug stones every spring to keep our collection fun and inviting.





We also love adding these bugs to our garden. We don't have much growing quite yet, but my boys love stacking them on other stones while we wait for those first flowers to pop through the earth. They are the perfect garden accessory and it's so fun to watch the spring flowers grow around them.





MATERIALS


- Beading wire
- Sharp scissors
- A variety of beads (I search for beads that look like the actual parts of the bugs we are creating. It's also a great opportunity to discuss bug anatomy.)
- Stones (find them at home garden centers or craft stores)
- Sharpie pens or fine tipped markers



INSTRUCTIONS

One of the reasons I love making these stones is because it's a collaborative process and requires teamwork. My two-year-old helps string the beads, my four-year-old helps with the drawing, and I wrap the wire around the rocks. We all work together, and my boys take great pride in their contributions.



- 
- A close-up photograph of a child's hand holding a thin beading wire with a single pink bead. The child is wearing a blue and white plaid shirt. To the right, a white flower-shaped bead tray with six petals sits on a wooden surface. The petals contain various beads: black, colorful (pink, blue, green, orange), and clear. A thin wire is also visible on the table.
1. Cut about two feet of beading wire. The wire I use is really thin and is easily cut with scissors.
 2. Tie a knot at the middle point of the two feet of wire, so the beads stay in place. Once my boys help me string the beads, I tie another knot at the other end of the beads.



3. Press the wire against the stone and draw the legs, antae, wings, or any other parts of the bug that need to be added. It will be difficult to draw around the wire once the stone is wrapped, so this is the best time to draw on the stone.



4. Tightly wrap the stone with the wire multiple times, from different angles. Tie the wire together at the bottom of the stone and cut any excess wire.

I hope you and your little nature lovers enjoy this activity as much as we do!







ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tara Rondinelli is a wife, early childhood educator, and nature schooling momma of two young boys. She is a blogger and creator of nature inspired resources for classroom, homeschool, and outdoor educators.

@littlepinelearners

Teachers Pay Teachers Store:
Little Pine Learners