

Follow Me Into the Woods
by Amy Laundrie

Characters: Paris, Oliver, a snake, pileated woodpecker, dog, chickadee, a great blue heron

Props: binoculars, picnic supper, piece of bread.

Staging: Paris and Oliver begin around a campfire.

PARIS: Hike in these woods? (She twirls her hair.) No way!

OLIVER: You're just not used to the forest. Granddaddy knows where we're hiking, and it won't get dark for a couple of hours yet. I'll grab our picnic supper and the binoculars. We'll need them for the surprise.

PARIS: Surprise? Picnic? (Licks her lips.) Okay, I'll go, but if I get too scared, I'm turning back.

OLIVER: Look! (He points.) That flash of blue-gray is part of the surprise. Follow me.

Staging: They hike in the woods.

SNAKE: SSS..ssss..sss...

PARIS: (Hugs herself.) Are there snakes around here?

OLIVER: There aren't rattlesnakes. Look over there! It's a garter snake. And, something just plopped in the water.

PARIS: Turtles! One looks like could be a snapper. (She looks.) I thought I saw something moving through the trees. Are there hunters in these woods?

OLIVER: No, hunting is not allowed.

WOODPECKER: Ratatatat! Ratatatat! Ratatatat!

PARIS: (Looking startled.) What was that?

OLIVER: Woody Woodpecker. The bird's real name is Pileated.

PARIS: It should be named kid-eating pterodactyl.

OLIVER: (Laughs.) I have something cool to show you near the water.

PARIS: Who's throwing rocks in the creek?

OLIVER: That's daddy beaver slapping his tail and warning his family to stay hidden. Let's take a peek.

DOG: AWOOOO!!

PARIS: Is that a wolf? (Looks scared.) I'm going back. Uh, aren't you coming?

OLIVER: That was only Ginger, the neighbor's hound dog. I want to keep going.

CHICKADEE: Chick-a-dee-dee-dee.

OLIVER: The chickadee wants you to keep hiking, too. (Looks ahead.) I just saw another part of our surprise. It's leading us toward those awesome pines. (Hands Paris the binoculars.)

PARIS: Awesome pines? Do you mean those trees that could be hiding a mountain lion?

GREAT BLUE HERON: QU-ANK!

PARIS: No mountain lions. We're safe.

OLIVER: Come on. I can hear our surprise.

PARIS: My chickadee is leading the way. Hey, what are all those clumps in the trees? (She points.)

OLIVER: Surprise! Welcome to the Heron rookery. See that little one poking its head out of the nest?

PARIS: Yes! It looks hungry.

OLIVER: Let's watch and have our picnic.

PARIS: Okay. My little chickadee might want some of my sandwich. (Holds out bread. Chickadee takes a piece pinching her hand.) Ha-ha. (Giggles.) That tickles, little chickadee. (Chickadee flies off. Paris waves.) Bye chickadee.

OLIVER: We should head home soon.

PARIS: Wait a second. I just spotted a luna moth. It landed close by. (Paris gestures.) Follow me.

The end.

FOLLOW ME INTO THE WOODS

PAPER PLATE GREAT BLUE HERON CRAFT:

MATERIALS:

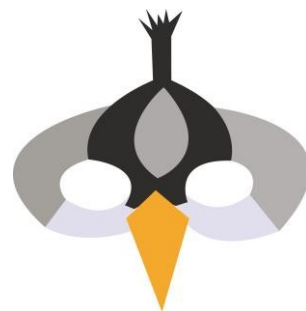
- Paper plate
- Paint brush
- Dark blue paint
- Silver paint
- A little bit yellow paint
- Scissors
- Popsicle stick or something to hold your mask up

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Cut your paper plate so it looks like a sleeping eye mask.
- Cut two holes at about the same distance apart as your own eyes.
- Take the leftover piece of your paper plate and cut it like a beak of a great blue heron . Color it with yellow paint.
- Great blue herons have little crowns on their head, so cut a crown with the leftover piece of paper plate. Color it a bluish-gray.
- Outline the shapes and color.



- Paste the crown and beak in place.



FOLLOW ME INTO THE WOODS

PAPER PLATE SNAKE CRAFT:

MATERIALS:

- Paper plate
- Some red paper
- green tissue paper (depends on the color of your snake you need)
- A stapler
- masking tape
- black marker
- liquid glue
- Scissors
- Popsicle stick or something to hold your mask is optional

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Cut two holes at about the same distance apart as your own eyes.
- Give your snake features such as scales.
- Cut nostrils.
- Paste green tissue paper on the paper plate. Leave the mask to dry.
- Cut red paper for the snake's tongue.
- After your mask is dry, cut it into a snake head shape.
- Fold the mask in the center and make a cut for the mouth. Staple the tongue in place.

- Cut pointed teeth from the leftover pieces of the paper plate.
- Glue or tape a Popsicle stick at the left, right ,or bottom of the back side of the mask.

FINAL LOOK :



FOLLOW ME INTO THE WOODS

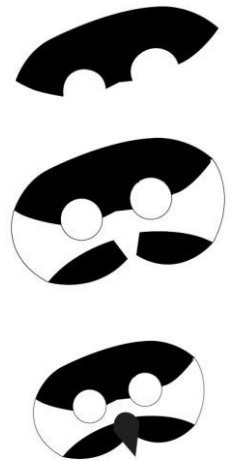
PAPER PLATE CHICKADEE CRAFT:

MATERIALS:

- Paper plate
- Black paint
- A little bit of gray paint
- Glue
- Scissors
- Popsicle stick or something to hold your mask

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Cut your paper plate like a sleeping eye mask.
- Using the leftover piece of paper plate, cut it like a chickadee beak and color it gray.
- Paint upper part of your mask with black paint.
- Paint lower part of your mask with black paint as shown in the picture.
- Glue the beak on.



FINAL LOOK:



FOLLOW ME INTO THE WOODS

PAPER PLATE HOUND DOG CRAFT:

Materials:

- paintbrush and paint or markers
- black or brown marker for freckles
- paper plate
- scissors
- glue
- paper
- Optional: You can substitute large wiggly eyes for paper eyes.
- Paint stir stick, thin strip of wood, or tongue depressor

Instructions:

- Color the paper plate.
- Using colored paper, cut out the ears, eyebrows, eyes, nose, mouth, and the tuft of hair.
- Glue the pieces to the plate to make a dog face. Add freckles.
- Glue the stick in place.

FINAL LOOK:



FOLLOW ME INTO THE

1. PAPER PLATE PILEATED WOODPECKER CRAFT:

MATERIALS:

- Red Marker or Paint
- Black Marker or Paint
- Paper plate
- Tape or glue
- Scissors
- Popsicle stick or something to hold your mask

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Cut the paper plate as shown.



- Cut two holes the same distance apart as your own eyes.



- Color the red patch and the black.

- Pinch the bottom of the paper plate and stick it together with tape or glue.



- Cut out a beak, color it black, and glue it in place.



- Pileated woodpeckers also have a small amount of red color on the side of their chin. So take your red marker or paint and draw a small red line on the left and right side of the bottom of the mask.



- Glue a popsicle stick or something similar to hold your mask up.

Final Look of the mask:

