



Our campers played group games in Central Park in a grassy area near the Museum. This area had lots of acorns, and the campers started collecting them, which was a perfect segue into our walk through the Ramble, where we collected more acorns, pine cones, seed pods, wildflowers, leaves, berries, and other plant materials we found on our way.

We talked about how plants get themselves ready for winter, and help their animal friends by producing berries and seeds, so that birds and other woodland creatures can eat as much as possible before winter. We talked about how some animals fatten up for winter, such as our own Central Park squirrels, who not only eat as many acorns as possible, but also store them so that they have something to eat over the winter when these fatty tree fruits are less available.

Monday we went to the American Museum of Natural History, where we saw a fun bird exhibit, but our main goal was to go see the rodent skeletons, to examine their jaw structure. We saw how squirrels have two sharp top front teeth and two sharp bottom front teeth so that they can chip away at acorn shells.



We also learned that the squirrel has **14 times** the amount of “bite power” as we humans do! (Squirrels have a bite force of 7,000 pounds per square inch, while humans have around 500 PSI.) One of our campers confirmed this, as he had been bitten by a squirrel, and said that it “hurt really bad.”

Our Monday project was salt dough ornament-making with the natural materials that we picked up as we walked through the Ramble. Once hardened, they can be ModPodged, or leave them natural. If you’d like to make more of these ornaments, you could make a whole mobile out of them! Below is a picture for inspiration.

Otherwise they serve as decorative reminders of the vocabulary and concepts that your children heard about and learned. Please see attached pictures of some of the plants, berries, seeds, seed pods, leaves, and flowers we collected in the park.

Our Tuesday projects included leaf portraits and a fall weaving: We traced leaves and drew in their vein structure, and used oil pastels to color them. We also made our own looms and then strung them with the beautiful items we collected on our walks. Consider taking a simple cardboard loom along next time you walk in the woods! It’s a perfect lightweight tool to collect specimens and bring them home to examine later.



Upcoming camps Oct 5, 10, Nov 8, 11, 23: Raptors, predators & prey, apples & pumpkins & gourds (oh my), cooking, printing & other crafts, trips to museums and other fun sites!

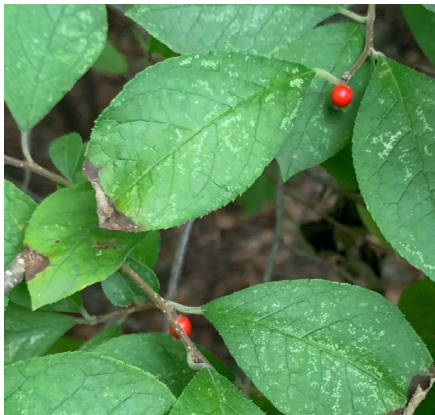


Here is some vocabulary we used on our walks and in our projects,
depending on your child's language level.

Vocabulary	French	Spanish
Leaf	La feuille	La hoja
Flower	La fleur	La flor
Seed	La graine	La semilla
Berry	La baie	La baya
Acorn	Le gland	Las bellotas
Pine cone	La pomme de pin	Las piñas
Seed pod	La gousse	La vaina de la semilla
Squirrel	L'écureuil	La ardilla
Rodent	Rongeur	El roedor
Teeth	Les dents	El diente
Bird	L'oiseau	El pájaro
Beak	Le bec	El pico
Food	La nourriture	La comida
Eat	Manger	Comer
Crack	Casser	Romper
(Acorn) shell	La coquille (de gland)	La cáscara (de bellota)
Look for	Chercher	Buscar
Find	Trouver	Encontrar
Gather/Collect	Ramasser	Recoger
Red	Rouge	Rojo/a
Orange	Orange	Naranja
Green	Vert	Verde
Purple	Violet	Morado/a / Violeta
Yellow	Jaune	Amarillo/a
Draw	Dessiner	Hacer
Trace	Tracer	Trazar
Weave	Tisser	Tejer
Stem	Le tige	El tallo
Vein	La nervure	La vena



Berries and seeds | Les baies et les graines | Las bayas y las semillas





Fall flowers | Les fleurs d'automne | Las flores de otoño

