

Raven Hill Discovery Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

Pressed flowers

My mother was a great one for drying flowers and creating pictures from those flowers. Turns out, there actually is a history and name for that art. In Japanese, it is called Oshibana. Egyptians left dried flowers in tombs 3000 years ago. The Japanese took dried flowers to an art form. The flowers are dried and then the petals and pieces of flowers are used to create a picture. Drying the flowers can take 2 to 3 weeks or can be done more quickly with an iron. Choose leaves, ferns or flowers that are relatively thin and flat for better results with the drying process. Make sure the flowers are dry to begin with and put them between two sheets of paper slipped inside the pages of a book that you no longer want. Phone books work perfectly. When you have your flowers placed inside, put a brick or other heavy books on top. Replace the papers every week as they absorb moisture from the flowers. If you want faster results, you can iron the flowers. Place them between two pieces of paper and use an iron set on low to press down. Hold the iron in one position, no need to glide the iron around. After 15 seconds lift the iron and let the paper and flowers cool for 15 seconds. Repeat pressing and cooling again until all of the moisture has evaporated. Keep checking. If all of the moisture is gone, the flower should stay stiff, when you pick it up and not “wilt”. Once you have your pressed flowers, comes the creative part of making a picture. Arrange the dried flowers to your liking and cover them with contact paper or packing tape. Tape or glue your artwork to a piece of cardstock to make a card to send to a loved one or friend.



1 Supplies



2 Press in old book



3 Or with iron



4 Not dry—wilts



5 Dry—stays up



6 Arrange on paper



7 Cover with tape or contact paper



8 Mount on cardstock & send



9 Petal people