

# Mini 4-H

# MODELS



*Draft Developed by:*  
Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service  
Area 7 4-H Youth Development Educators from  
Blackford, Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Henry, Jay,  
Madison, Randolph, Rush, Union, & Wayne counties

# Indiana Academic Standards

Following is a list of Science Standards that the activities in this book meet.

## **Kindergarten**

K.1.2 Begin to demonstrate that everybody can do science.

K.3.1 Describe objects in terms of the materials they are made of, such as clay, cloth, paper, etc.

K.5.1 Use shapes, such as circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles, to describe different objects.

## **Grade 1**

1.5.2 Make and use simple picture graphs to tell about observations.

1.6.1 Observe and describe that models, such as toys, are like the real things in some ways but different in others.

## **Grade 2**

2.1.6 Use tools to investigate, observe, measure, design, and build things.

2.2.4 Assemble, describe, take apart, and/or reassemble constructions using such things as interlocking blocks and erector sets. Sometimes pictures or words may be used as a reference.



# Mini 4-H Parent's Page



Welcome to the Mini 4-H Program! Mini 4-H is designed for youth to explore a variety of project areas.

Your child received this project manual when enrolling in Mini 4-H. This manual will provide fun, age-appropriate learning activities throughout their year(s) in Mini 4-H and their interest in this project.

As a Mini 4-H parent, your job will be to guide and encourage your child through the activity. It is highly suggested that you do not complete the activities for them. Instead, help them, guide them, work with them, and let them do all that they possibly can. The 4-H motto is "learn by doing" and is the best educational tool that we can provide for youth.

Additionally, the Mini 4-H program is set up to allow your child to exhibit a project at the 4-H Fair. This project is based upon information within this manual.

The 4-H Fair is an exciting time for 4-H members and families. It is a time that allows community youth to showcase their talents, interests, and enthusiasm for learning.

Mini 4-H is fun! Your child will certainly enjoy it. You can have fun too, by guiding and helping as your child participates in the program. Encourage and praise your child as he/she has fun learning and sharing with you.

If you have any questions regarding Mini 4-H or other 4-H programs, please contact your local Extension Office.



# Mini 4-Her's Page



Welcome to Mini 4-H! You are now a member of the 4-H family. You are a special person.

Mini 4-Hers have lots of fun! There are lots of activities for you to explore. You can try new things. You can share it with your friends and family.

Mom, Dad, or another adult can help you with your project. Bring your project to the 4-H Fair and lots of people will be able to see what you have done. You also get a ribbon made just for Mini 4-Hers.

## Things to Know About 4-H

The 4-H Symbol:

A four-leaf clover with an "H" in each leaf.

The 4-H Colors:

Green and white

The 4-H Motto:

To make the best, better.

The 4-H Pledge:

I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking,  
my HEART to greater loyalty,  
my HANDS to larger service, and  
my HEALTH to better living, for my club,  
my community, my country, and my world.



# What Are Models?

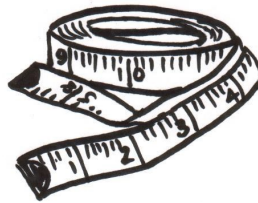
Do you like to make things? Do you see things and ask, "How was that made?" Many of us like to make things. A *model* is a small version of a real-life thing. Many of us like to make models of cars, boats, planes, tanks, and buildings. Making a model can take a lot of time.



## Activity 1 — Observing Things Around Us

You will need:

- Pencil
- Tape measure
- This activity sheet



Here is what to do:

1. Look around the place you live in. Look at it from the outside and from the inside. Look at it up close and far away.
2. Write down what you see. What color is it? How big is it? (Use your tape measure.) Does it look new or old? Does it have moving parts? Does it look neat? Is it rough or smooth? Use the chart to keep notes about what you see.
3. Look at a car or truck. Look at it from the outside and from the inside. Look at it up close and far away.
4. Write down what you see. What color is it? How big is it? (use your tape measure) Does it look new or old? Does it have moving parts? Does it look neat? Is it rough or smooth? Use the chart on the next page to keep notes about what you see.



*Keep notes about the things you see.*

What did you see?	Where you live	Car or truck	Thing 1 (example)	Thing 2	Thing 3
What is it?			Table		
Color(s)			Brown		
Rough or smooth?			Smooth		
How tall?			18 inches		
How wide?			36 inches		
How deep?			24 inches		
Does it look new or old?			Old		
Moving parts?			No		
Is it neat?			Very neat		

Here are some questions:

Why is it important to look at things that you are going to model?

---

Did you see things that you didn't see before? \_\_\_\_\_  
What?

---

Which thing would you most like to make? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why?

---



# Why Make a Model?

When you make a model, you will have fun. When you make a model, you will learn new skills. You will learn to watch things. You will learn to follow instructions. Best of all, you will find a hobby that can last the rest of your life. You may even build models when you grow up and go to work. Many jobs include model building. Engineers and architects

## Activity 2 — Make a Plastic Model Kit

You will need these things before you start:

- A snap-together model kit
- A place where you live to lay out the pieces where they won't be lost.

Here is what to do:

1. Lay out all the pieces so you can see them.
2. Look at your instructions. Make sure you have all the parts in your instructions. If you don't, put the model back in the box, and return it to the place you bought it. If you have everything, go to step 3.
3. Now, read the directions to the end.
4. Now, once more — read the directions to the end.
5. Follow the directions and snap together your model.

Here are some questions:

Why did you check the parts? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

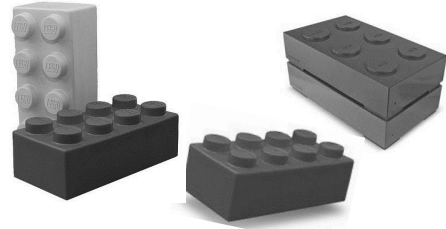
Why did you read the directions? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Activity 3 — The World of Legos®

Items needed:

- Legos of all sizes and kinds



Here is what you do:

1. Spread out a bunch of Legos.®
2. Make 2 or 3 models of a larger item. Here are some ideas:
  - Car
  - Helicopter
  - Barn
  - Chair
  - House
  - Small town with 5 buildings
  - Fire Department building
  - School bus

Here are some questions:

What models did you make?

---



---

Which one was the hardest to make?

---

What other kind of Lego® models could you make?

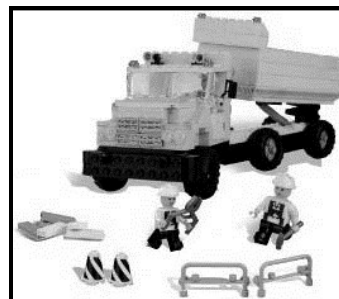
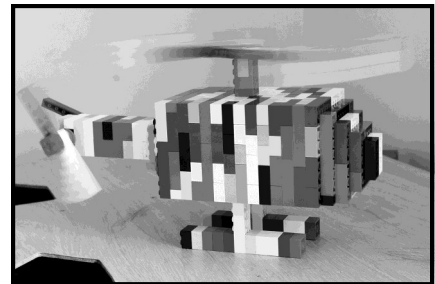
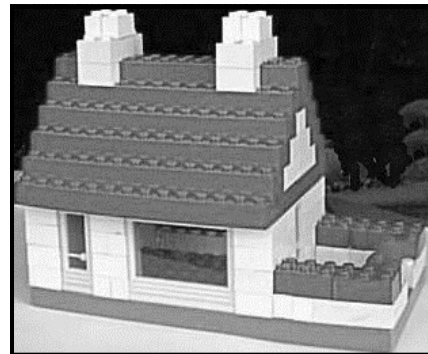
---



---



---





## Activity 4 — Toothpick Model

Items needed:

- Lots of toothpicks
- White school glue



Here is what to do:

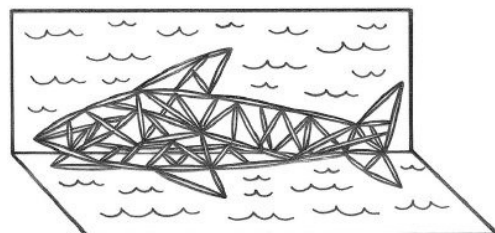
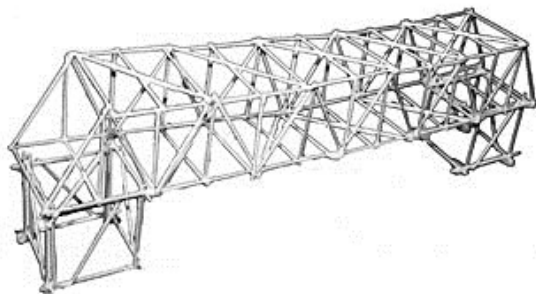
1. Decide what kind of model you can make with toothpicks.  
Here's a hint: Toothpicks are straight. The model would need to have straight sides.
2. Make a model of a larger item, like a house or a barn.
3. Using a little bit of glue, put your model together.

Here are some questions:

Was this easy or hard to do? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you use very little glue? \_\_\_\_\_

What happens if you use too much glue? \_\_\_\_\_



# Different Kinds of Models

There are different kinds of models. Plastic models are fun and easy to do. Once you snap or glue them together, they look like the real thing. But there are other kinds of models.

Take a look around your house, your school, or the library. Do you see other kinds of models? Remember: Models are a small version of a real-life thing. What are these models made of?

## Activity 5 — Other Models

Items needed:

- Pencil
- A shoebox
- Construction material (scrap paper, cloth, etc.)
- Glue
- Scissors

1 Here is what to do:

1. Pick a building or room. It could be your house, your school, or the local library. It's your choice!
2. Look around this building or room. What does it contain?
3. Make a model of the building or room.
4. Use construction paper, toothpicks — anything that will work — to build your furniture, carpet, chairs, etc. Don't worry about making the tiny items in the room (such as cups).



*Activity 5, continued*

Here are some questions:

What are some things you can find around the house to use in making a model?

---

---



What are some other things that you can use to make models? \_\_\_\_\_

---

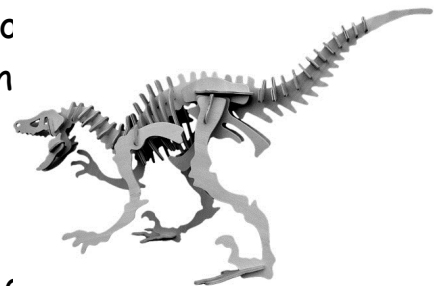
What do you like to make models out of? \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Begin Your First Model

The fun thing about making models is that you can make anything you want. There is not a right or wrong model.

Try making your first model out of something at home. This might be toothpicks, sticks, sugar cubes, playing cards, or anything else that you can glue or stick together. A popular thing that many models are made of is clay or Play-Doh®.



Once you have some model-making experience, try a plastic model. But don't forget — you need to ask an adult for permission! Before you know it, you'll have a room full of models!



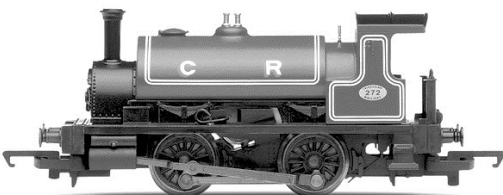
# What Do I Exhibit?



Here is a list of projects that can be shown at the 4-H Fair. Pick one project you would like to try. You do not have to make them in any order. If you have any questions, please call the Extension Office. There are people there who can help you.

- Make one snap-together plastic model. Do not glue or paint your model.
- Make a model using 2 to 4 different items of your choice. Examples: clay, toothpicks, sticks, ceramics, sugar cubes, etc.
- Visit a museum and look around at different models. Write a short report on your visit. Here are some things you might want to put in your report:
  - What kind of models did you see?
  - Ask someone who works at the museum how they build their models. Or do they buy the models already built?
  - What was your favorite model? Why did you like this model? How big was it? How big would the real-life item be?
- Make a model using as many different items of your choice. Make a model background to display your model. Example: Paint a shoebox so that a plastic model car looks like it is driving down the road, across a field, through the water or the air.

## Good luck!



## 2009 Reviewed and Edited by Area 7 Extension Educators

RaeAnn O'Neill, CED, 4-H Youth Development, Blackford County  
Richard Chalupa, 4-H Youth Development, Delaware County  
Jane Richard, 4-H Youth Development, Delaware County  
Jonathan Ferris, CED, 4-H Youth Development, Fayette County  
Cindy Hartman, 4-H Youth Development, Fayette County  
Angie Riffle, CED, 4-H Youth Development, Franklin County  
Cara Kobza, 4-H Youth Development, Jay County  
Bethany Ratts, 4-H Youth Development, Henry County  
Beth Leonhard, 4-H Youth Development, Madison County  
Gary Simmons, 4-H Youth Development, Madison County  
Dan Kirtley, CED, AgNR, 4-H Youth Development, Randolph County  
Laura Mickler, CFS, 4-H Youth Development, Randolph County  
Kristi Amos, 4-H Youth Development, Rush County  
Jennifer Logue, CED, ANR, 4-H Youth Development, Union County  
Debra Searcy, CED, 4-H Youth Development, Wayne County  
Natalie Carroll, Extension Specialist, State 4-H Department

### Original Compiled by

Leanne Burrow, 4-H Youth Development, Henry County

### Resources and References

*Mini 4-H Model Building Manual*, Madison County  
*Mini 4-H Model Building Manual*, Delaware County  
*Mini 4-H Models Manual*, Blackford County  
*Wild Adventures*, Rush County

February 1997

Revised, September 1997

Revised, October 1998

Revised, January 2009

## PURDUE AGRICULTURE

---

It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue University is an Affirmative Action institution. This material may be available in alternative formats.

**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY

Purdue Extension  
**Knowledge to Go**  
1-888-EXT-INFO

---

Order or download materials at the *Purdue Extension Education Store* • [www.extension.purdue.edu/new](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/new)