

NATURE MOBILES

A **mobile** is a sculpture made up of objects suspended in the air to allow for movement and to consider balance. Elements that move within a sculpture are called **kinetic**. Some examples of kinetic sculptures at Storm King Art Center are some of the [monumental works by Mark di Suvero](#) and the delicately engineered [sculptures by George Rickey](#). Just like these works, the mobile that you create can move with the wind!

To create your nature mobile, you will be searching for objects found within nature to use as materials for your sculpture. Taking inspiration from works at Storm King that are made from natural materials found across the grounds, such as [Andy Goldsworthy's Storm King Wall](#) and [Maya Lin's Storm King Wavefield](#), the mobile that you create will also be specific to where you gathered your materials from!

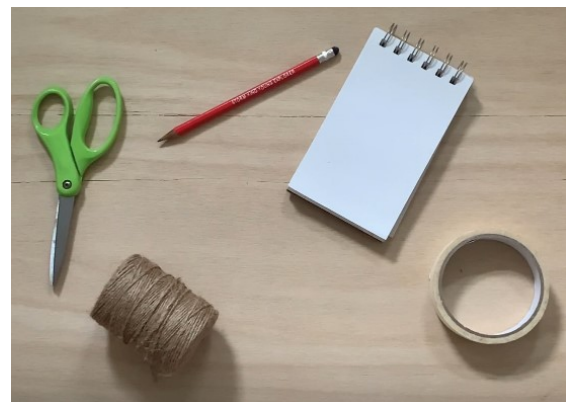


Supplies

Your mobile can be made outside, but there are a few things you will need to bring with you.

- String or twine
- Scissors
- Tape
- A piece of paper or journal
- Something to write with

Consider where you might want to collect your natural objects from, perhaps a nearby hiking trail, a pond or a river, or in your own backyard! Once decided, take your supplies and head to your site.



At Your Site

Step 1. Search for a stick of any size or character you like. This will be the frame for your mobile.

Step 2. Look around for objects to hang from your mobile, but make sure not to choose anything too heavy.

Step 3. Find a spot where you can lay out your materials to start making your mobile.



Assembling Your Mobile

Step 4. Cut a piece of string for each object you found. The length of the string will determine how high or low it will hang from your mobile.

Step 5. Tie one end of the string to the stick and the other of the string to the object. Wrap your string around the object a few times and tie it off with two knots to be sure it's secure. You can also use tape.



Considering Balance

To make sure your mobile is balanced, compare the weights of objects by holding them in your hands, then hang objects of similar weights on opposite ends of your stick.

After you tie objects, lift your mobile to see how everything hangs. If you are not pleased with how it looks or if it is not balanced, you can move the hanging objects to a different spot along the stick to redistribute the weight.



Finishing Touches

Step 6. Once you finished tying all your objects to your mobile, cut one final piece of string to tie on either end of your stick so your mobile has a way to hang.

Step 7. Cut off any excess string from your knots. Be sure to take scraps of string with you when you leave your site.

Step 8. On a piece of paper or in your journal, take a moment to write down where your materials were located or sourced from, note the date and time as well. Write down any significant notes to remind you of your site.



Siting Your Mobile

Think about where you might want your mobile to live.

Do you would like to keep your mobile inside of your home to remind you of your specific place?
Would you like to gift it to someone special and they can find a place to site it?
Perhaps you want to hang it outside of your home to allow the wind to make it come alive?



Key Vocabulary Words

- **Mobile**
- **Kinetic**