Teach your child about Jack-in-the-pulpit with a fun craft!

Jack-in-the-pulpit has one of the most intriguing blossoms. The flower consists of a large, cylindrical hood that resembles a “pulpit” and a thick, fleshy spike in the middle, representing “Jack”.

Learn about this plant and the scientific terms used to describe it by making your own model. A pencil or stick can represent the spadix (or “Jack”) and be customized with the spathe (or “Pulpit”) wrapped around. Don’t forget to head outside and try to find a real Jack-in-the-pulpit blooming in deciduous woodlands. At the Aldo Leopold Nature Center, the Kindergarten Woods is a good place to look!

MAKE YOUR OWN JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT

MATERIALS
pencil or stick, paper or cloth, coloring or painting supplies, scissors, glue or tape

DIRECTIONS
1. Draw and cut out a ‘pulpit’ using the template shown here
2. Decorate your ‘pulpit’ - this specialized leaf is called a spathe and is typically striped with green and/or deep purple colors
3. Wrap your ‘pulpit’ around your ‘Jack’ and attach by gluing or taping ‘B’ and ‘C’ together - the part of the plant that sticks through the center is called a spadix and is covered by tiny flowers
4. Curl the pointed end ‘A’ of your ‘pulpit’