

WEIRD
ANIMALS
Where Jesus' Love Is One-of-a-Kind



Weird Animals
Decorating Places
Step-by-Step Instructions

Contents

Supplies and Tips—Please Read!	2
Wacky Flowers & Foliage	
Flowers.....	5
Flower Boxes.....	8
Fan Foliage.....	9
Putting the Flower Boxes Together.....	10
Wildly Weird Tree	
Tree Trunk & Branches.....	11
Tree Supports.....	12
Tree Leaves.....	12
Wonderful Waterfall, Rocks & Pool	
Waterfall & Rocks.....	14
Pool	17
Backdrop, Extras & Finishing Touches	
Hip Habitat Fabric Wall Hanging.....	18
Weird Animals Logo.....	18
Giant Bible Memory Buddies®.....	19
Colorful Vines.....	19
Finishing Touches.....	19
Just for Fun	20
Transparencies	21



Supplies & Tips—Please Read!

General Tips

The Weird Animals field-test set is simple to build but offers plenty of opportunity for you to add your creativity and for your volunteers to have a great time working together!

- **Read through the instructions first, and plan your projects.** The set you build for your VBS will most likely have some constraints as far as the amount of space and budget available. You can make some or all parts of these projects and go simpler or more elaborate. Enlist some handy volunteers, and just have fun!
- **Calculate the amount of supplies needed.** The supply lists provide you with a *general guideline*, since your set might be larger or smaller than the one we created for our field test. The number of flowers and trees, for example, will affect the quantity of supplies, including paint, foam, and cardboard, so we can't tell you exactly how much to purchase for your set. Also keep in mind that when we build our field test, we use scraps from one project for parts of other projects.
- **Set up your work area.** It's helpful to have separate stations for cutting and painting. Protect your areas by laying large tarps or drop cloths on the floor. For safety, wear heavy gloves when using the hot knife, hot glue gun, and heat gun. Be sure to wear latex gloves when using the Great Stuff foam; it's very important to avoid getting foam on bare skin. Use a pair of sawhorses to cut the foam sheets with the hot knife; it's easier on your back, and it protects the floor. Never use your leg to prop foam or wood while you cut it!
- **Watch the *Decorating Places: Weird Animals DVD*.** The DVD is included in the Weird Animals VBS Starter Kit. You'll get more tips and helpful advice from our design expert, Bruce Barry.

Techniques

- **Scoring**—With a utility knife, cut lightly along a line, cutting only through the top layer of the cardboard, being careful not to cut through the entire piece. This allows you to easily fold along the scored line.
- **Dry brushing**—Put only a small amount of paint on the brush, and then dab the brush on a paper towel or rag so there is very little paint on the brush. This technique prevents globs of paint in areas where you want just a little highlighting.
- **Cross-hatch**—Apply and work in paint with short criss-cross strokes so there are no distinguishable directional lines.
- **Blending**—Where two colors meet, to avoid having a hard-edge dividing line, mist the foam or cardboard with water from a spray bottle to keep the paint workable as you brush from one paint area into the other.
- **Using Great Stuff**—Available in different size cans, Great Stuff is a sprayable insulating foam that can be used as an adhesive for foam and cardboard. To use, hold the can upside down. After the foam has been applied, it expands, so to avoid having a gap between the items being glued together, place a heavy weight on top until the Great Stuff dries. If foam oozes out around the edges, wait until it dries and then remove it with a straight-edge utility blade. *Use gloves when working with Great Stuff foam; do not get it on bare skin.*



General Supplies

- transparency projector
- transparency paper
- black fine-point marker
- yardstick or tape measure
- utility knife
- rolls of duct tape and clear packing tape
- scissors
- hot knife with straight blade*
- heavy-duty heat gun to texture foam rocks—optional
- Ove Glove or other heavy gloves
- heavy-duty hot glue gun, glue sticks
- 2-3 large cans of Great Stuff insulating foam (used as an adhesive)
- latex gloves
- 1-2 boxes of 2½" nails; dozen 6" nails
- paint pans, plastic cups
- 3"-4" paint brushes; small sponge brushes; paint rollers; fine-tip art brushes
- spray bottles
- electric drill (cordless is helpful)
- ¾" and 2" drywall screws

Supplies for Flowers & Foliage

- Flower Petal Transparency pattern (p. 23)
- 4' x 8' sheets of heavy cardboard—1 sheet yields enough petals for 1 large and 1 small flower or 2 small flowers
- 4' x 8' sheets of 1½"-2" thick foam for flower centers—half sheet for 6 small flowers and 2 large flowers (can also use scraps from other projects); foam scraps also used for flower boxes
- round clear plastic saucers, 3½" high—10" diameter for small flowers, 12" diameter for large flowers (check Home Depot or farm supply stores)



- large and small chenille wire stems
- package of tissue paper or small roll of crepe paper—optional for glowing flower
- white glue (like Elmer's)
- large piece of blue cellophane for glowing center—can use scraps from pool project
- small can light and extension cord
- 48" x 12" x 12" cardboard boxes—2 boxes per flower box
- poster paper in bright colors—1 sheet per foliage fan (we purchased paper that had a different color on each side, very fun), approximately 20 sheets for field test
- scissors
- 1" wood stakes—1 per flower, approximately 30" long
- saw to cut wood stakes
- paint: Elizabethan Yellow, Island Orange, Toasted Coffee, Berrylicious, Pool Party, Ocean Soul, Rollick Purple, Simply Green, Gamma Green (see paint list for details)



Supplies for Trees & Leaves

- Tree Trunk Transparency pattern (p. 21)
- Tree Branch Transparency pattern (p. 22)
- 4' x 8' sheets of 1½"-2" thick foam—1 sheet per tree trunk; 1 sheet per 2 trees for back supports; 1 sheet per 3 trees for branches (can also use scrap foam from other projects)
- sandbags or other weights to stabilize trunk back supports
- artist's charcoal stick
- 4' x 12' roll of apple green bulletin board paper—optional second roll for second layer of tree leaves
- paint: Toasted Coffee, Berrylicious, Pool Party, Homestead Resort Spa Green, Gamma Green, Simply Green, Ocean Soul, Rollick Purple (see paint list for more details)

*available from group.com or your Group VBS supplier



Supplies for Waterfall, Rocks & Pool

- 48" x 12" x 12" boxes, available at uline.com or from other shipping suppliers—4 boxes for waterfall sides, 2 boxes for rock extensions
- 4' x 8' sheets of 1½"-2" thick foam (approximately 6; can also use scraps)
- rolls of blue cellophane
- small electric fan and extension cord
- foam (or real) rocks and artificial foliage to hide edges of pool and electric fan
- paint: Ocean Soul, Dust Bunny, Tatami Tan (see paint list for details)

Supplies for Backdrop, Extras & Finishing Touches

- 8' x 20' Hip Habitat Fabric Wall Hanging* (we used 2)
- pipe-and-drape frame

- zip ties or gaffer's tape
- Weird Animals logo from the Giant Decorating Posters pack* and Giant Bible Memory Buddy Posters* (or print from the *Weird Animals Clip Art & Resources* CD in the Starter Kit)
- 6 sheets of foam core—1 for each 3' x 5' Buddy poster and 1 for the Logo poster
- spray adhesive
- length of 1" PVC pipe—approximately three-fourths the width of the Logo poster
- heavy-duty fishing line—will use doubled strands to hang Logo poster
- foam pool noodles for colorful vines
- artificial foliage to hide lighting cans (optional)
- uplight cans
- water effect lights (optional)

Paint Colors

Feel free to use the colors of your choice and purchase at any paint store; we used these paint colors (all interior flat latex).



Valspar 3009-1 Elizabethan
(1 quart)—yellow



Valspar 4003-10C Rollick
(1 quart)—purple



Sherwin Williams 6374 Torchlight
(1 quart)—gold



Valspar 1005-1A Berrylicious
(1 gallon)—reddish-orange



Valspar 2005-10B Dust Bunny
(1 gallon)—light beige



Valspar 6003-8B Gamma Green
(½ gallon)—light green



Sherwin-Williams 6116 Tatami Tan
(1 quart or ½ gallon)—medium tan



Valspar 6002-8C Simply Green
(1 gallon)—darker green



Valspar 2010-2 Island Orange
(1 gallon)—bright orange



Valspar 6004-5B Homestead Resort Spa Green
(1 quart)—light minty green



Valspar 2008-3B Toasted Coffee
(1 gallon)—darker orange



White (1 cup)—optional to tint



Valspar 5002-10B Pool Party
(1 gallon)—bright blue



Valspar 5009-9 Ocean Soul (1 gallon)—
darker blue

*available from group.com or your
Group VBS supplier



Wacky Flowers & Foliage

Across the front of our set, wacky flowers and fan foliage grow out of four flower boxes with unique grass leaves. Each flower has four petals and a raised center with chenille "stamens." The small flowers measure 3' 7" across at the widest point, and the large flower measures 4' 7" across. The field test set has six small flowers and two large ones. One of our large flowers has a spectacular glowing center! There are approximately five of the colorful paper foliage fans per flower box.

Flowers

For the Petals:

1. You can use the same transparency for the small and large flowers. Project the flower petal image onto a sheet of cardboard. For the small flowers (and "small" is a relative term!), adjust the distance of the projector so the petal measures 19" across at the widest, 4" across at the narrow base, and 22" from base to tip. For the larger flowers, move the projector closer so the petal measures 29" across at the widest, 7½" across at the narrow base, and 28" from the base to the tip.



2. Use a sharp-point permanent marker to trace the flower petals onto large sheets of cardboard. Using the dimensions given here, you can fit four large petals and four small petals onto each 4' x 8' sheet.
3. Use a utility knife to cut out the petals.
4. Hot glue four petals together at the center, overlapping the edges where they meet.



For the Flower Centers:

1. For the center circle on the smaller flowers, trace the 10" round clear plastic saucer onto foam, and cut out with a hot knife. For the center circle of the simple large flower, trace the 12" saucer.
2. Use Great Stuff adhesive to attach the foam circle onto the middle of the small flower on the front side. (Place a weight, such as a can of paint, on top of the circle until the Great Stuff foam dries so it doesn't expand and leave a gap between the foam circle and the cardboard.)
3. Paint the flower in bright colors. We used contrasting colors for the center, petals, shading, and accent dots. You can use your creativity and imagination on these freaky fun flowers!

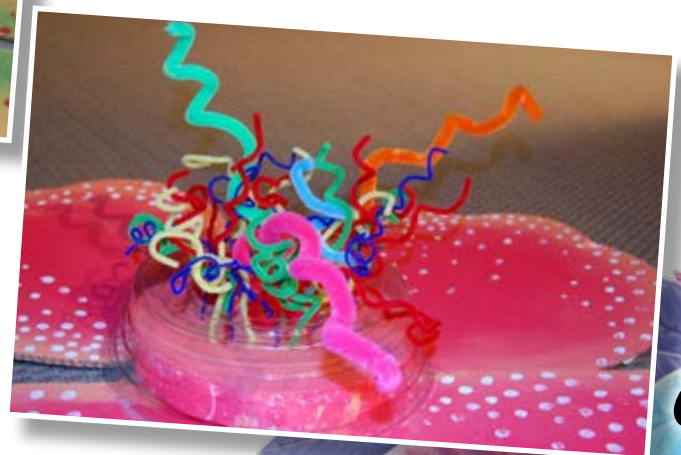


For the glowing large flower, see the additional steps beginning on page 7. For the small flowers, continue with the remaining steps here.

4. Cut out the bottom of the plastic saucer with a utility knife, and use hot glue to attach the wider open end over the foam circle.



5. Curl chenille stems around your finger to make colorful loopy stamens, and insert one of the ends into the foam circle, with the other ends poking out from the opening in the plastic saucer.



For the Glowing Large Flower:

1. For the center of the glowing flower, trace the bottom (smaller end) of the 12" saucer, and cut out the circle; draw a circle 2" outside that circle (16" in diameter) and cut out.
2. Cut out a 16" circle from cardboard, and attach it to the foam ring with Great Stuff adhesive.
3. Trace a solid 16" circle onto foam, and use Great Stuff to glue it to the center on the back of the large flower.
4. Glue the foam ring/cardboard circle to the center of the front side of the flower with Great Stuff, and drill $\frac{3}{4}$ " drywall screws through the cardboard circle into the overlapped petal ends. (In the next step, you will be cutting a small opening through all layers of the inner circle, so it helps to keep the screws closer to the outside edge of the circle.)
5. Draw a circle approximately 7" in diameter in the center of the cardboard circle, and use a utility knife to cut through all layers of cardboard; then use the hot knife to cut the 7" opening through the solid 16" foam circle on the other side.
6. Paint the foam ring on the front side with the desired color. Be sure to paint the outside and inside edges of the foam and also the cardboard inside the foam ring.
7. Cut out the bottom of a 12" clear plastic saucer. Paint the inside and outside of the saucer the same color as the foam ring. Use hot glue to attach the painted saucer to the foam ring. Paint the flower petals a contrasting color.



8. For extra pizzazz, cut or tear small rectangles of tissue paper or crepe paper. Place your finger in the middle of the rectangle, and bunch the paper around your finger; dab a small bit of white glue at the base of the painted saucer, and stick the center of the rectangle into the glue. Keep adding scrunched bunches of crepe paper around the ring until it's nice and fluffy.
9. Take a large piece of blue cellophane, and scrunch it into a loose ball; place it inside the painted plastic saucer.
10. After you place your glow-flower in the desired location, set a small can light in a position so it will shine through the blue center of the flower. It's a huge WOW factor!



Flower Boxes

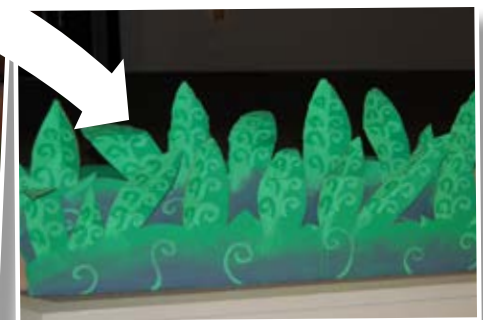
1. Each flower box, 4 feet long and 1 foot high, has two strips of one-of-a-kind grass leaves. You need one box for the base and one box for the strips of grass. (Or use flat cardboard for the grass and cut strips 4 feet long by 2 feet high.)
2. For the grass foliage, open up one cardboard box. Draw grass leaves free form along one edge of the 4-foot strip. If you are using the boxes, cut the leaves from the flap edge to make it easier to fold the grass tips for a natural look. Draw and cut out a second grass strip from the other side of the box.



3. Paint the cardboard a base coat of Simply Green (the darker green). It's better to paint several thin coats than one thick coat; allow to dry between coats. The strips of grass will be glued to a box base, so you don't have to paint the lower part of the strip that won't be seen, but do paint both sides of the leaf tips.
4. Paint a vertical half of the leaves with the Gamma Green (the lighter green).
5. Then with a small, fine-tip paint brush, draw curlicues in the contrasting shade of green on each leaf half.

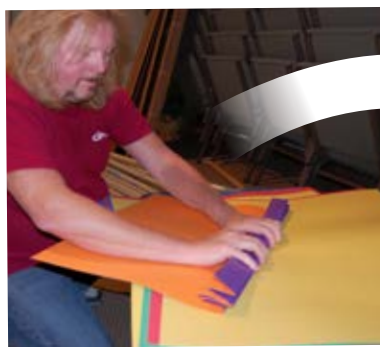


6. Paint the bottom of the strip in Rollick purple, using the dry-brush technique. As you paint, mist the cardboard lightly with water to blend the purple edge into the green.
7. Paint whimsical curls and swirls in green on the purple area.
8. Put one 4-foot box together, taping the flaps closed with clear packing tape. Paint the top and ends with Simply Green; you only need to paint the front side toward the top and end edges where the cardboard may show behind the grass strips.
9. Use a heavy-duty hot glue gun to attach one strip of the painted grass to the front of a painted box. To keep the grass from looking so flat, bend the tips to the front and back randomly, and scrunch the tips vertically.
10. Glue foam scraps to the lower edge of the grass strip, and then hot glue a second strip of grass to the foam scraps; the two layers give your flower boxes dimension.



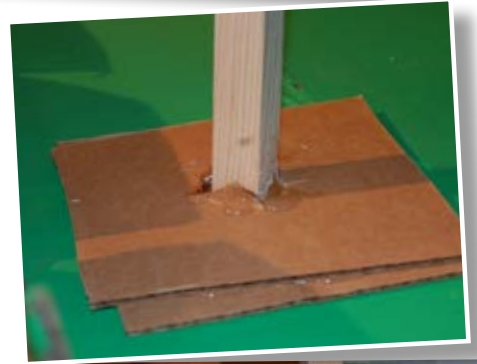
Fan Foliage

1. Accordion-pleat a sheet of poster paper, making pleat folds approximately 2½"-3" deep.
2. Cut one end into points about 4"-6" deep; you can either cut the points individually or hold the fan end together and make one cut through all the layers.
3. Wrap the uncut end with a strip of duct tape to hold the lower edge of the fan together. And that's all there is to it!

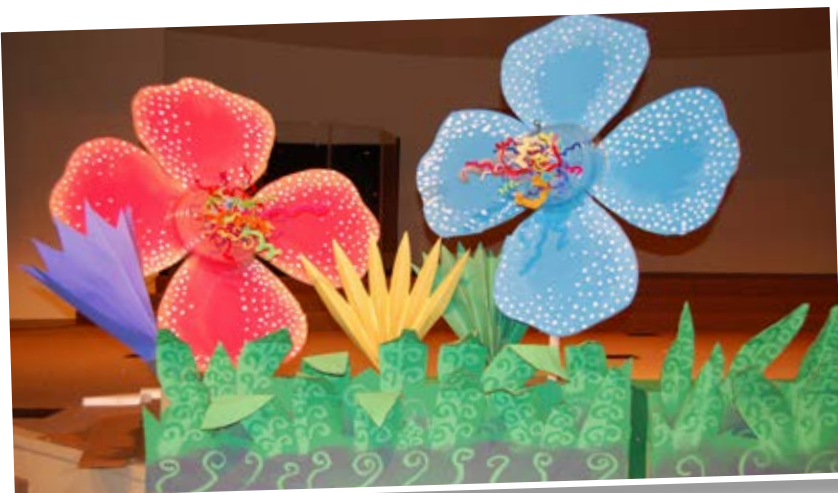


Putting the Flower Boxes Together

1. The flowers need "stems" to go into the flower boxes. Cut 1" wood stakes to the desired length (approximately 30").
2. Cut squares of cardboard approximately 6" to serve as stabilizers for the wood stakes; we used 2 squares per stake. With a utility knife, cut an X in the center of each cardboard square, and then cut an X into the top of the flower box where the flower will be placed.]
3. Insert a stake through the cardboard squares, into the top of the box; apply strips of duct tape on all four sides of the cardboard squares to hold them firmly to the box base, and also run some hot glue at the base of the wood stake.
4. Use heavy-duty hot glue to attach a flower to the stake. The flower box will look more natural if the flowers are placed at different heights and angles.
5. To add fan foliage among the flowers and grass, simply cut a slit in the top of the cardboard box and insert the duct-taped end of the fan. Running a bead of hot glue at the base of the fan will also help keep it from tilting to the side.



This is one wacky flower garden!



Wildly Weird Tree

There were four of the wildly weird trees on the field test set, two on each side of the waterfall. The tree leaves are simply painted paper strips that are draped across the front of both sets of trees—so easy.

Tree Trunk & Branches

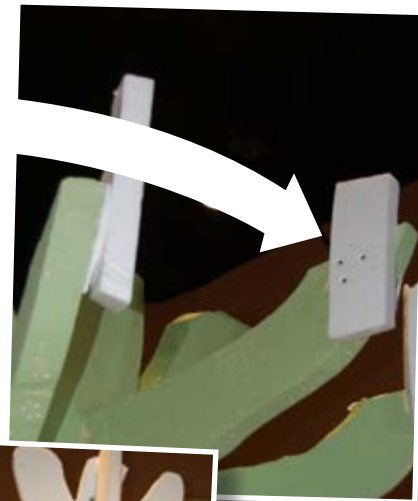
1. Peel the protective paper off of both sides of 4' x 8' foam sheets.
2. Project the Tree Trunk Transparency onto the foam sheet, filling the sheet with the image. Trace the outline with a black fine-tip marker.
3. Use the Tree Branch Transparency to trace three branches per tree, setting the projector distance so the branch fits the *approximate* dimensions shown on the transparency
4. Cut out the trunk and branches with the hot knife. Angle the base of the two outer branches so you can attach them flaring toward the outside of the trunk. Use Great Stuff foam to attach the branches to the trunk. Toenail with a few 2½" nails to hold more firmly.



5. Use small rollers to paint a base coat on the tree trunk and branches. For two of the trees, paint base coat Toasted Coffee (orange), and shade the outer sides of the trunk with Berrylicious (reddish-orange), lightly misting the cardboard with water from a spray bottle to blend the edge of the darker color into the lighter color. For the other two trees, paint base Homestead Resort Spa Green, shaded with Simply Green.

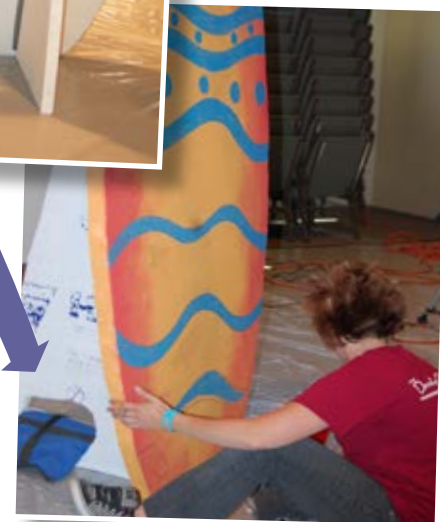


- Then it's time to add some funky accents! Use an art charcoal stick to draw squiggles, curvy lines, and small circles to the trunk, and paint in vivid contrasting colors, using a small 3" bristle brush. Let your imagination go wild—and weird!
- For foam extensions that will be the nailing support for the paper tree leaf strips, cut scrap pieces of foam approximately 4 to 6 inches wide by 11 to 14 inches long, and attach an extension to the end of each branch, using Great Stuff and 2½" nails. The extensions should all point straight up vertically.



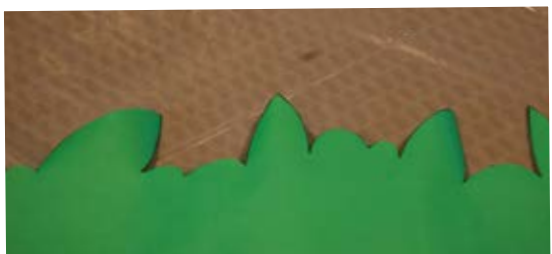
Tree Supports

- To keep the trees standing upright, create supports for the back from the sheets of foam. The supports should be 2 feet wide at the base and taper to about 1 foot wide at the top, so you can get two supports from one sheet of 4' x 8' foam. Cut an opening at the lower part of the support where you can put a sandbag-type weight to help keep the tree from toppling.
- Attach the support to the back of the tree with Great Stuff adhesive and duct tape. Be sure the Great Stuff is fully dry before standing the tree upright. For additional support, push 2½" nails diagonally into the support and into the back of the tree, but be careful to keep the nail point from going all the way through the tree trunk to the front.

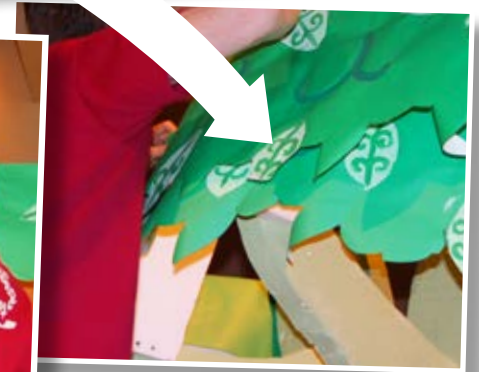


Tree Leaves

- The tree leaves are easy-to-do painted strips of paper. Cut a 12' long roll of apple green bulletin board paper into four strips 12" high. Use a marker to draw leafy tips along one edge, approximately 4"-5" deep; cut along the lines with scissors.



2. With a small paint brush or sponge brush, paint three- and four-petaled leaf clusters in Gamma Green (light green) mixed with a little white, randomly along the strip. Add leaf veins and fun swirls in Simply Green (darker green).
3. After you've placed your trees (we put two trees close together on each side of center stage), fold approximately the top third of a leaf strip over, and nail the doubled edge into the branch extensions with 2½" nails.
4. If you need to hide some of the unpainted extensions or if you want to make the tree foliage more dense, fasten one leaf strip about halfway down the extensions, and add a second strip at the top of the extension.

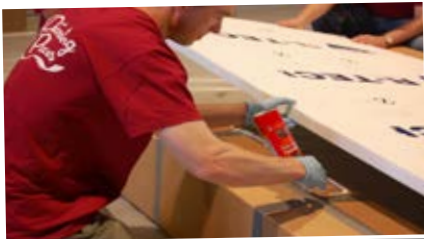


Wonderful Waterfall, Rocks & Pool

The waterfall is 8 feet high, with two half-height wall extensions, one on each side, for extra impact and to balance the tall narrow waterfall. There is a blue cellophane pool with foam "rocks" at the base of the waterfall that hide an electric fan and cord; the air from the fan makes the cellophane water ripple as it comes down the face of the waterfall.

Waterfall & Rocks

1. Tape the flaps closed on six 48" x 12" x 12" boxes with clear packing tape.
2. Stack two boxes vertically, so they are 8 feet high, and duct tape firmly together.
3. Lay the boxes on the floor, and place a 4' x 8' sheet of foam on top, extending more than halfway across the edge of each box. The foam face inside the vertical boxes should be about 30" wide, the width of the cellophane that will run down the length of the inside front. Align the bottom of the foam with the bottom of the boxes.
4. Attach the foam to the boxes with Great Stuff adhesive. For further stability, drill 2" drywall screws down through the foam into the boxes. To keep the screw heads from popping through the foam, use small scraps of cardboard as "washers."



5. Cut foam to fit the sides and front of the vertical box uprights. A tip—what we wish we'd done!—is to cut the inside pieces first and then fit the front pieces so they overlap the front edge of the inside pieces. Use Great Stuff adhesive to fasten the foam to the boxes; push 6" nails into the foam and boxes. To hold the foam pieces against the boxes while the adhesive dried, we used scrap pieces of foam as braces between the sides.



6. Cut a brace piece of foam approximately 6" wide to fit between the box sides at the bottom of the waterfall.

7. Layer random-size pieces of scrap foam on the insides and front of the waterfall, attaching with Great Stuff and nails.

8. With the hot knife, cut into the layers of foam, carving rock shapes and textures. (Watch the *Decorating Places: Weird Animals* DVD for additional tips.)



9. Cut and carve some free-form rocks from foam scraps. Add pieces to the top of the vertical boxes to cap them off.

10. On the inside of the waterfall, attach a rock piece from each side toward the center; this is to keep the blue cellophane "water" from blowing too far out when a fan is blowing air behind it.

11. For the rock side extensions, stand the extra two boxes up and cover the front and sides of each with more layers of foam, textured with the hot knife. Be sure to carve the same angles in the side extensions as the main waterfall sides. For extra texture, sear patches of the foam with a heat gun. (Note that a hair dryer won't work!)



12. Paint all the foam on the waterfall and side extensions a base coat of Dust Bunny. Use a 4" bristle brush and mist sprays of water to brush Tatami Tan into the crevices.
13. Now it's time to add "water"! Paint the back inside of the waterfall with dark blue Ocean Soul, including the foam brace at the bottom.
14. Drape a full length of blue cellophane from the top of the waterfall to the floor and extending about 15"-20" at the bottom. Wrap the end of the cellophane over the top of the waterfall, and attach it to the back with 2½" nails.

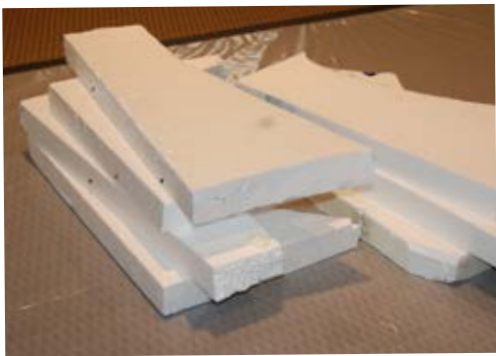


15. With several helpers holding the draped cellophane taut, use a utility knife to cut 3-inch-long vertical slits about 3 inches apart into the cellophane. The slits should be on the inner part of the cellophane strip; don't cut through the edges of the cellophane. When a fan is placed at the bottom of the draped cellophane and turned on, the effect of the air blowing through the slits should be that of rippling water; you don't want loose strips flapping!



Pool

1. After the waterfall has been placed on the set, decide on the size of the pool at the base of the waterfall; lay out lengths of blue cellophane, taping the seams with clear packing tape.
2. Cut the outline of the pool to the desired shape, using a light touch on a utility knife to avoid cutting into the flooring; to be safe, you can slide a piece of cardboard under the edge of the cellophane to cut against. Tape down the edges of the pool. Scrunch some lengths of cellophane and place at the base of the waterfall to look like swirling water.
3. Make several freeform rocks by stacking and nailing three to four layers of foam scraps together and carving the shape and texture with a hot knife.
4. Paint the rocks the same colors described in step 12 of the Waterfall section. Place rocks around the pool to hide the edges.
5. Place a small electric fan at the base of the waterfall; adjust location and angle so the air stream makes the cellophane ripple down the front of the waterfall. Tape down the extension cord. Place foam rocks and artificial foliage to hide the fan and cord.



Backdrop, Extras & Finishing Touches

The Hip Habitat fabric backdrop, available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier, is 8 feet high and 20 feet long, and the colors and design greatly enhance the set pieces you are building. This also hides anything that's distracting behind your stage area. Because we had a large space available, we used two backdrops side by side for our set. If you are decorating for the Sing & Play Stampede and The Tail End stations, be sure to keep in mind where the Station Leader will be leading all the fun activities for opening and closing, and place all the elements of your Weird Animals VBS set accordingly.



Hip Habitat Fabric Wall Hanging

1. Set up the pipe-and-drape system at the back of your Weird Animals set. Angle the sides in to avoid a flat look.
2. Use zip ties to hang the backdrop with the buttonholes in the fabric, or fold the top of the backdrop over the top pipe and secure with gaffer's tape or duct tape.



Weird Animals Logo

1. For the colorful Weird Animals logo, use the Logo poster available in the Giant Decorating Poster pack or take the clip art CD to a printer and have the logo image printed to the desired size.
2. Use spray adhesive to glue the logo to foam core; working from the center out, smooth out any bubbles. Cut around the outline with a utility knife.
3. To hang your logo, use heavy-duty hot glue to attach a length of PVC pipe to the back of the foam core. Run a double strand of heavy-duty fishing line through the PVC.
4. To hang the logo from the ceiling, attach one end of the fishing lines to a hook in the ceiling, a light rod, or anyplace you can tie onto. Have an assistant help you adjust the height of the logo; then tie the other end of the lines to the ceiling fixture.



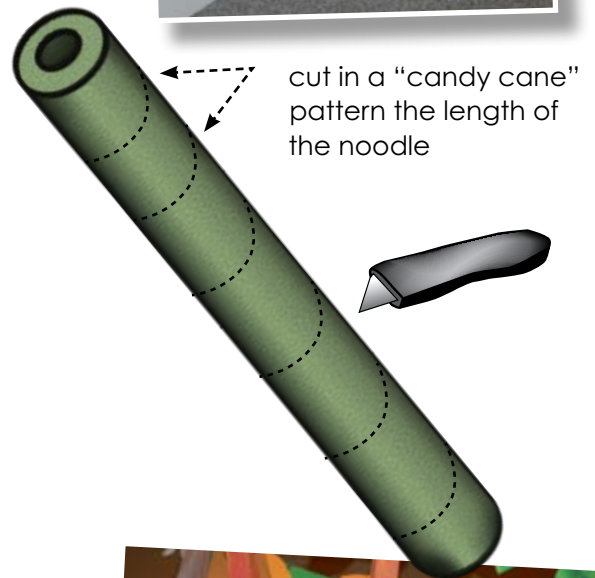
Giant Bible Memory Buddies®

1. The Giant Bible Memory Buddy Posters, a huge 3' x 5', are available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier. As with the logo, use spray adhesive to glue each Buddy to a sheet of foam core, and cut around the outline with a utility knife.
2. To make the Buddies freestanding, cut a wedge shape of foam core or cardboard about three-fourths the height of the character. Attach it to the back of the Buddy with duct tape.



Colorful Vines

1. To make curly vines, draw a line in a spiral shape down the length of a pool noodle.
2. Cut along the line with a utility knife.
3. Use zip ties to fasten two or three noodles into a long "vine."
4. Drape the vines over the tree branches and across the top of the waterfall.



Finishing Touches

1. Place your amazing trees, giant flowers, and Bible Buddies around your set.
2. Add pots of artificial foliage and baskets.
3. Use uplights hidden among the foliage to highlight your set. For a really spectacular effect, add a water light that shimmers on the pool.



Kids—and adults—will love your one-of-a-kind Weird Animals VBS habitat!



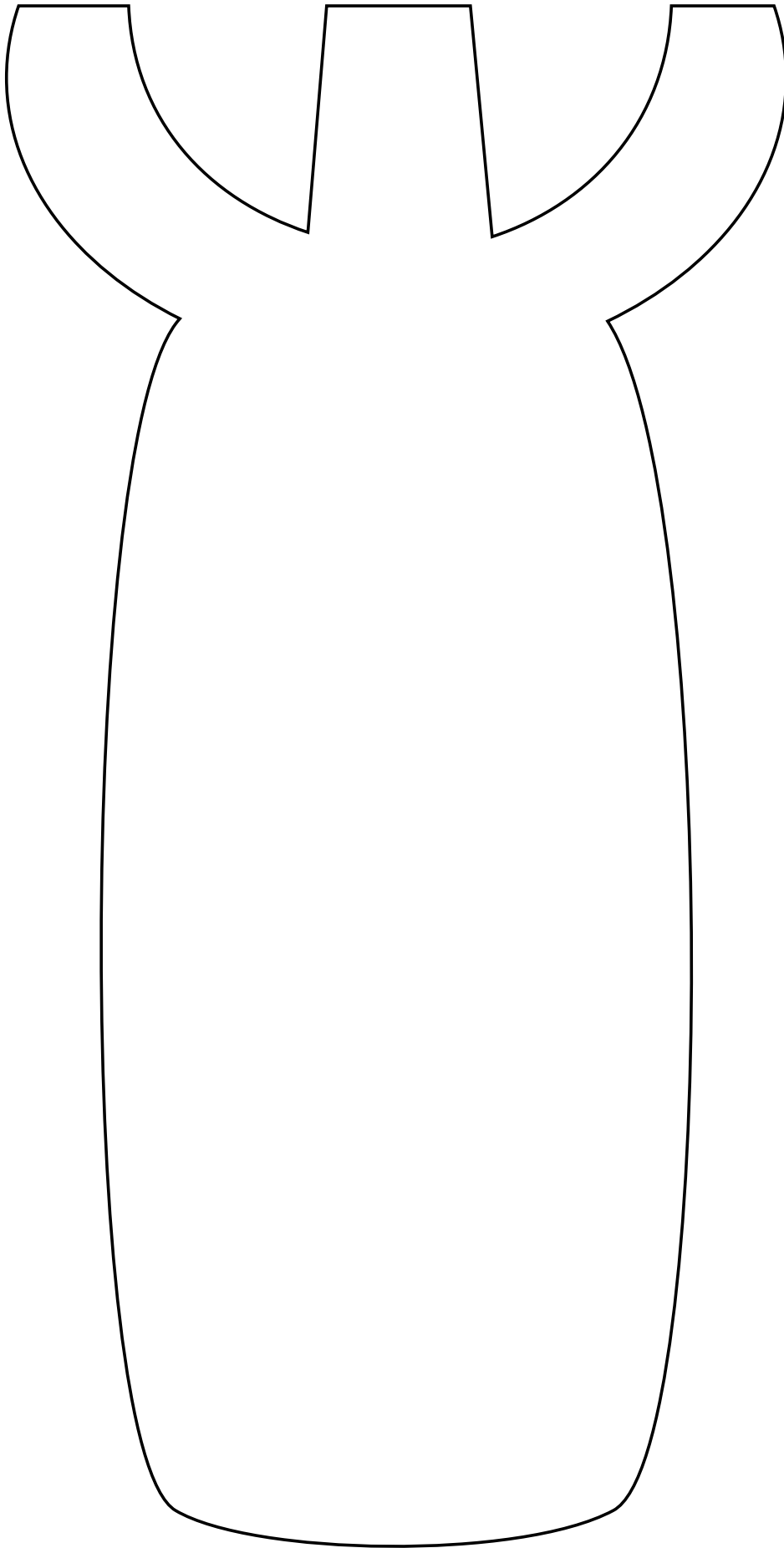
Just for Fun

Share some yummy snacks with your set-building crew! Put together fun themed food trays; we filled ours with some crazy animal treats, like a watermelon hedgehog and weird creepy-crawlies made from skewered strawberry and banana slices and grapes with white frosting and mini chocolate chip eyes! Check out websites like babble.com, or do an online search for animal-themed snacks.

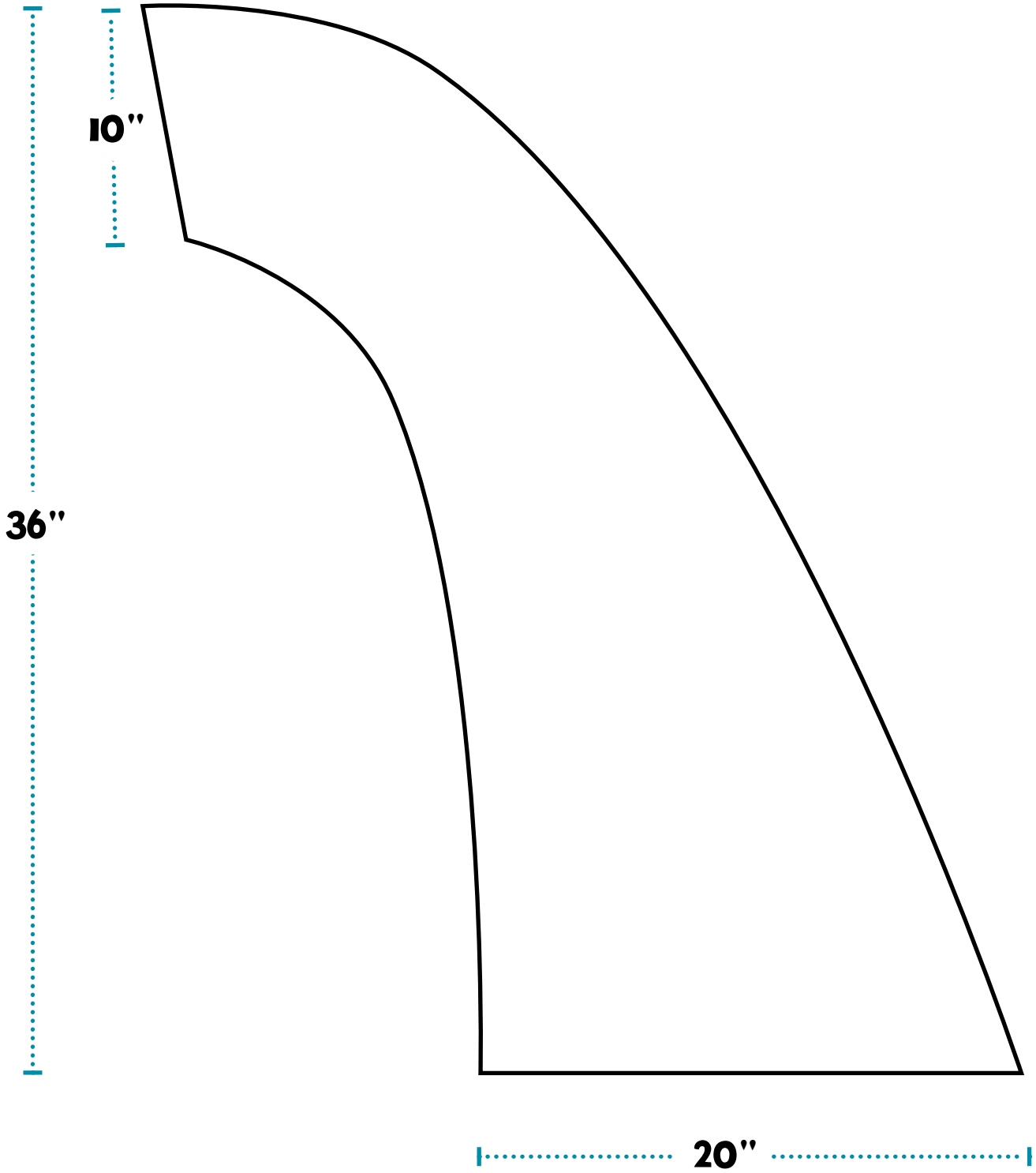
Find congregation members or a local pet shop that is willing to bring some unusual animals after VBS one day. We surprised Joani and Bruce with some cuddly snakes, a spiky-looking gecko, and an adorable baby hedgehog!



Tree Trunk Transparency



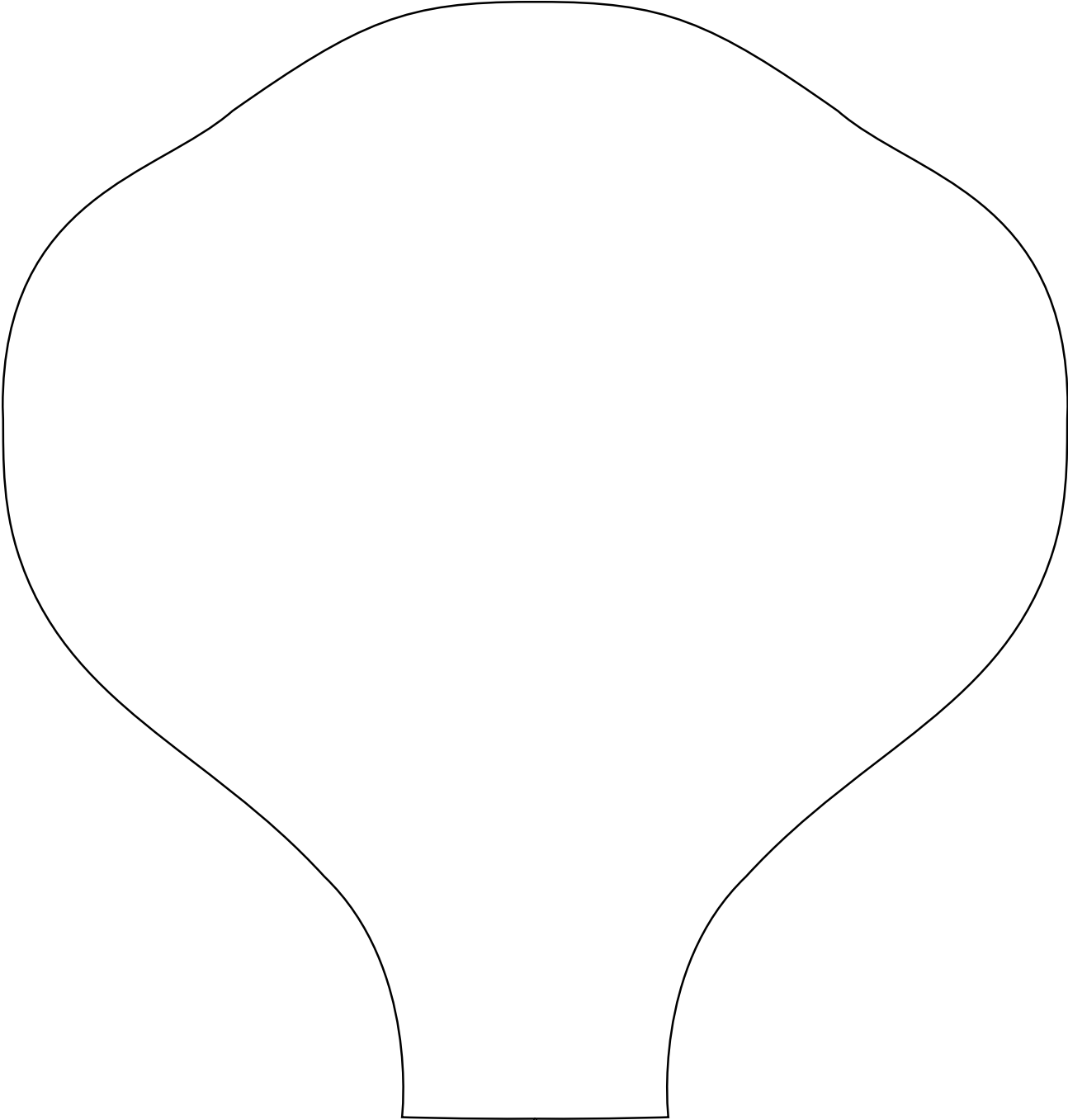
Branch Transparency



Flower Petal Transparency

Small Petal 19"
Large Petal 29"

Small Petal 22"
Large Petal 28"



Small Petal 4"
Large Petal 7½"