Best Friend
in the
Whole World
Activity Kit
About the Book

Roland lives a quiet life filled with books, music, and tea parties for one, but sometimes he feels rather lonely. When Roland finds the perfect companion in Milton (Good listener! Enjoys music! Also alone!), he is overjoyed. It’s okay that Milton is just a pine cone; they have so much in common. But clues start popping up in the woods, suggesting someone else might be missing their best pine cone friend. Roland must decide if it’s worth leaving someone else in their loneliness to keep Milton in his life.

Debut author-illustrator Sandra Salsbury celebrates the transformative power of connection in this moving picture book about loneliness, friendship, and compassion.

About Sandra Salsbury

Sandra Salsbury grew up in the Santa Cruz Mountains where she once found a stick that was her best friend for a day. She has a BFA and MFA in illustration from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco and received the 2018 SCBWI Don Freeman Illustration Grant. She currently lives in Berkeley, California. This is her first picture book.

www.sandrasalsbury.com
**Materials:**
- Pine cone
- Googly eyes
- Pipe cleaner

**Directions:**
1. Using the googly eyes, help your pine cone friend see by placing the sticky sides of the eyes on the pine cone.

2. Next, give it some arms. Using the pipe cleaner, weave it between the scales of the pine cone to wrap it around the core, so you create an arm on either side of the pine cone. Or, with the help of an adult, you can cut the pipe cleaner in half with scissors and glue them to both sides.

3. Lastly, don’t forget to name your new friend! Use the rest of this page to write your new best friend’s name and list what activities you would like to do together.
Pine Cone Sensory Soup
Add pine cones and ground cinnamon to a large bin and fill halfway with water. Encourage children to use different senses to describe what they see, smell, hear, and feel when they interact with the bin. Then using a large bowl and spoon or ladle, have children practice their fine motor skills by letting them scoop the pine cones and put them into the bowl to make their own bowl of “soup.”


Pine Cone Creatures
Pine cones make a great base or body for different animals and creatures! Using the links below, get instructions for how to make your own pine cone snowy owl, pine cone firefly, and pine cone hedgehog.

Snowy Owl: https://frugalfun4boys.com/pine-cone-snowy-owl-craft/
Firefly: https://www.firefliesandmudpies.com/pine-cone-fireflies/
Hedgehog: https://www.cbc.ca/parents/play/view/pine-cone-hedgehogs

Pine Cone Bird Feeder
Make a pine cone bird feeder to hang in your backyard or outside your window, using pine cones, peanut butter, twine, and birdseed. Tie a length of twine around the very top part of the pine cone; make sure the twine is long enough to hang. Then using a small spatula or butter knife, spread a thin layer of peanut butter over the pine cone. Pour the birdseed in a wide bowl and roll the pine cone in the birdseed to cover as much of the peanut butter as possible. Then tie the twine to a tree branch or in a place where you can watch the birds enjoy their treat!

Source: https://www.freebiefindingmom.com/easy-fall-crafts-using-pine-cones/
Pine Cone Weather Station

Pine cones are amazing natural weather predictors! They will open and close depending on the humidity outside to help with seed dispersal. To watch this happen, place a pine cone on an outside window sill or surface outside so you can see if from inside. You can attach it with some Blu-Tack™ or modelling clay so it is stable and doesn’t fall over. Record what the pine cone looks like every day over several days. When the weather is dry, the pine cone will open up, and when it is going to rain, the pine cone will close.

Source: https://www.science-sparks.com/pine-cone-weather-station/

Pine Cone Toss

Practice counting and hand-eye coordination with this fun toss game! Grab six pine cones in a variety of sizes, three different-sized bowls, a die, and tape or chalk to mark off the playing area. To set up, put bowls in order from large to small and designate different points for each bowl (for example, the large bowl is worth 1 point, the next bowl is worth 2 points, and the smallest bowl is worth 3 points). Roll the die and count the number shown. Toss that number of pine cones into the bowls to see how many points you can earn.

Write
Your Friend a Letter
Write a letter to your best friend.

DEAR __________,

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

YOUR FRIEND, __________
Draw
Your Friend a Picture

Draw a picture of an activity you and your best friend like to do together.
Write a List

What makes someone a friend?
Write down all the reasons that makes a person your friend.

A FRIEND IS SOMEONE WHO...
How to Draw a Pine Cone Friend

1. Draw an egg.

2. Add scales.

3. Add another row of scales.

4. Fill your whole egg!

5. Give it twig arms and a face.

6. Put your friend in a happy forest!