

# Magical Pressed Flower Lightholders



Summer is in full bloom which means it's time for another fun activity that starts outside! In the first part of this project, we will get out and explore our favorite park or our backyard to collect some colorful blooms and leaves.

Once we've collected all our flowers we will make a simple flower press using cardboard, paper and paper towel. With our dried petals and blooms we will create a magical jam jar lightholder to keep the summer magic alive in our homes all year round. Put a battery operated tealight in your flower jar to turn this into a magical nightlight for your bedroom!

To follow along on our adventure and see how we made our pressed flower lightholder, watch the video at this link:

<https://vimeo.com/eskereducation/pressedflowers>

## MATERIALS:

- Approx. 30 to 40 collected flowers and leaves
- Thick cardboard, printer paper and paper towel
- String or elastic bands
- Empty glass jars with any labels removed
- White glue or Modge Podge
- Paintbrush
- Tealight (wax or battery operated)

**STEP 1:** Head out to your favorite park or into your backyard with an empty plastic container or bag and collect some beautiful flowers and leaves! Pick flowers close to the top, you won't need long stems.

**STEP 2:** Make your flower press. Fold a piece of paper and arrange some of your petals and leaves on one half. Close your paper like a book and place it into a piece of paper towel folded the same way. Cut two pieces of cardboard and place your bundle between these two pieces, tying string tightly around them or using an elastic band to keep your press tightly closed. Place under a heavy object or books for at least one week.

**STEP 3 (OPTIONAL):** You can speed up your drying process by placing your flower press into the microwave under a plate and microwaving on a low setting for 30 second intervals until your flowers are crispy and dry. This should take 1.5 to 2 minutes per bundle.

**STEP 4:** Once your flowers are dry, glue them to your glass jar using either Modge Podge, or white glue. If you are using white glue, mix it with some water to thin it out. Your mix should be one part water, one part glue. Working your way around the jar in sections, use a paintbrush to apply your glue to the jar and then gently press your dried flowers into the glue.

**STEP 5:** Once you have covered your jar in flowers, carefully use your paintbrush to dot some glue on top of your flowers to sandwich them between a top and bottom layer of glue. Place a wax or battery operated tealight in your jar and voila, you have a magical pressed flower lightholder!