

# Houston Zoo at Home

## GREEN-WINGED MACAW

### Green-Winged Macaw

For this activity watch the video of Zookeeper Sydney tell you all about Clark, our green-winged macaw. [Click here to watch!](#)

Green-Winged Macaws are very social and smart birds adapted for treetop living in forests of Central and South America. We learned about a few of their unique adaptations from our Ambassador Animal, Clark, and his keeper Sydney. They have specially designed feet, with two toes facing forward and toes facing backward, to allow them to balance as they grasp branches as well as hold food items they may be eating. Macaws also have very strong beaks for cracking open nuts like walnuts and climbing along tree bark and vines. They even have a specialized tongue bone for tapping into fruit.

Our keepers spend a lot of time with Clark to ensure he gets lots of social interactions throughout the day and provide him with enrichment that allow him to exercise his smart brain. A few of Clark's favorite enrichment include listening to loud music, visit other animals around the Zoo, foraging for treats, and painting!

Try out some of Clark's favorite things throughout the day:

- Listen to your favorite song turned up loud and shake your tail feathers in your own dance party
- Make beautiful paint art –with your feet!
- Explore the sights and sounds outside your window or home. What can you see, hear, and smell?
- Create your own puzzle feeder with a paper tube or paper and holes cut out. This works for pets and snack time!

**Share your project with us!**

Tag your photo using #HoustonZoo or email us your story at [communications@houstonzoo.org](mailto:communications@houstonzoo.org).

## Nature-Inspired Window Art (DIY stained glass)

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Green-Winged Macaws, like our Ambassador Animal Clark, live in dense tropical forests surrounded by lots of color. While we might not live in South America, we can find bright, beautiful landscapes here in Houston as well. Spend some time exploring your backyard, neighborhood, or photos of your favorite places to visit. What shades and shapes do you see? Use your findings to inspire your own window art!

Supplies: your choice! There are so many options. You can paint directly on the glass with tempera paint or you can use craft supplies (tissue paper, craft paper with shapes cut out) to create a removable art piece.

Direct window painting: you'll need washable paint, dish soap, water, paint brushes, and masking/painter's tape

1. Make sure you are starting with clean windows. Use the masking or painter's tape to create the outline of the design you will be painting. Boxes, triangles, and geometric shapes are easiest. You will want to make sure the tape meets at each corner so there are no open gaps for the paint to escape.
2. Mix a little tempera paint (start with a tablespoon) with 1-2 drops of dish soap and a splash of water. You are trying to make a slightly thinner paint consistency but not super runny.
3. Start painting! Try not to paint on the tape strips if possible. For bolder or darker colors, let the paint dry between paint layers and then add another coat.
4. Cleanup is simple. When you are ready to take down your artwork, pull off the pieces of tape and use a dish towel or rag with warm soapy water to remove. Depending on how much dish soap was originally used in the paint mixture, it may rub off without additional soap.

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