Make your own Split-twig Animal

One 3 foot length of wrapped wire is provided for your use. Practice making an animal using the instructions that follow. Then, you may wish to try to make others using wire, real willow or cottonwood twigs, or commercial basketry reed. Be sure to dampen any plant materials you use with water to make the fibers more flexible.

1. Select a pre-cut piece of wrapped wire.

2. Fold the wire in half. Pinch it tightly.

3. Hold the folded wire between your thumb and forefinger, about 1" from the fold. Now bend the double thickness of wire 90 degrees at point "a" to form the hind legs.

4. About 1 1/2" from the new fold, bend only the bottom wire 90 degrees at point "b". Then bend the same wire upwards at point "e" to form the front legs.

5. Wrap the other wire about 4 times around the outside of the legs to form the body. Tuck any extra wire inside your wraps.

6. End "2" will be used to form the head and neck. About 1" above the body, fold the wire about 45 degrees at point "d". Then fold it again (about 1/2" from "d") at point "e". This forms the head.

7. At the top of the head (point "f") fold the wire parallel to the neck.

8. Bring the wire down one side, bend it around the belly, and up alongside the neck once again.

9. Fold it again at point "g" over the head.

10. Wrap the remaining length of wire 4 or 5 times around the neck. When you have used most of the wire, tack in the loose end, or squeeze it tightly against the body of the figure.