Family Activity Guide

FUN WITH PLYWOOD!

Find the exhibition PLYWOOD: MATERIAL, PROCESS, FORM in Architecture and Design Gallery I on the third floor of the Museum.

LOOK AROUND. These objects are all made of a material called plywood.

Plywood is like a layer cake of thin sheets of wood (called “plies”) that have been heated, glued, and pressed together by a machine.

Plywood is less expensive than solid wood and so strong and light that it has been used to build airplane parts!

FIND Lounge Chair (c. 1944) by husband-and-wife designers Charles and Ray Eames.

Made of plywood that has been steamed and bent to fit the curves of the human body, this chair is comfortable, even without cushions!

IMAGINE sitting in this chair. Where would you rest your head? Where would you place your arms, legs, and feet?

POSE as if you are sitting in this chair, and show your friend or family member.

COMPARE this chair to Butterfly Stool (1956), by Sori Yanagi.

THINK about how the chairs are similar. How are they different? Which chair would you rather use? Why?
FIND the object below. Without reading the label, can you guess what it was designed for? No peeking!

WRITE your own label. What would you call this object? How would you use it?

Isamu Noguchi (American, 1904–1988)

Title: __________________________

C. 1941

Laminated and carved wood

I would use this object to: __________________________

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READ the Museum’s label for this object. What is the title? Are you surprised?

In what room would you use each of the objects below?

DRAW a line between the objects and the rooms of the house where they might belong. Are there some you might use in more than one part of the house?

KEEP LOOKING!

For the rest of the day—at MoMA, on the street, and at home—look for objects made of plywood. You may be surprised at how many things you find!

VISIT Material Lab on the first floor of The Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman Education and Research Center to explore how artists and designers use other materials.