

# 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)

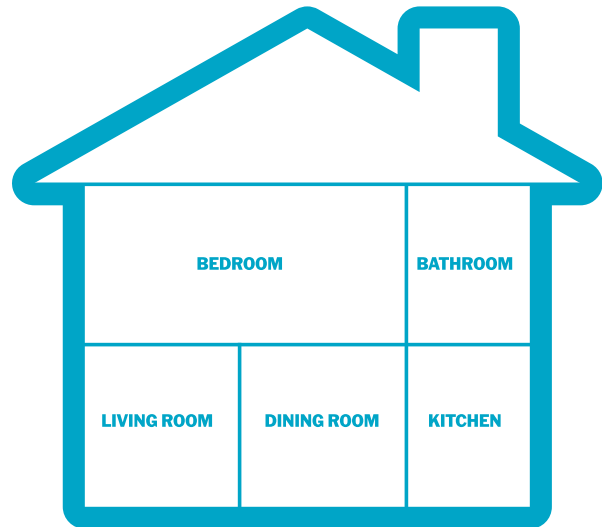
**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_  
c. 1941  
Laminated and carved wood

I would use this object to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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.

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For information on Family Programs at MoMA, please visit [MoMA.org/family](http://MoMA.org/family).

Images: Isamu Noguchi (American, 1904–1988). Table. c. 1941. Laminated and carved avodire, 30 x 41 x 16" (76.2 x 104.1 x 40.6 cm). The Philip L. Goodwin Collection (gift of James L. Goodwin, Henry Sage Goodwin, and Richmond L. Brown), 1958./ Alvar Aalto (Finnish, 1898–1976). Paimio Chair. 1931–32. Bent plywood, bent laminated birch, and solid birch, 26 x 23 3/4 x 34 1/2" (66 x 60.3 x 87.6 cm). Manufactured by Oy Huonekaluja Rakennusliiketoiminta Ab, Turku, Finland. Gift of Edgar Kaufmann, Jr., 1943./ Tapio Wirkkala (Finnish, 1915–1985). Platter. 1951. Plywood, 9 7/8 x 1 x 19" (48.3 x 25.1 x 2.5 cm). Gift of Greta Daniel, 1953./ Reiko Tanabe (Japanese, born 1934). Stool. 1961. Molded plywood with teak veneer, 14 1/4 x 17 x 17" (36.2 x 43.2 x 43.2 cm). Gift of the manufacturer, 1976