

Writing with Walnuts

STARTING THE SCHOOL year takes a lot of work. Did you buy school supplies or new clothing? But going back to school now is much easier than it was when Europeans first settled in the United States. Back then, kids had to make many of their own supplies—even ink. Early colonists wrote with berry juices, or made ink by mixing soot or cinders with water. This month, Spider needed ink for his diary, so he made some using walnut shells! Here's how:

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

12 walnut shells

$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp white vinegar



small pot



wooden mallet
or hammer

thick
plastic bag



cup of water

small clean
jar with lid



WHAT TO DO:

1. Put shells in plastic bag and tie shut. With mallet or hammer, break up the shells into small pieces.
2. Add the water and shells to the small pot. Then have a helpful adult put the pan on the stove to simmer for half an hour.
3. Turn the stove off and let shells sit in water overnight.
4. Pour the dark brown ink into the jar and add the vinegar. This keeps the ink from fading. Happy writing!



LOVE,
OPHELIA