**Seed Creatures**

*Prepared by Julietta Sorensen Kass* | 60-70  *min* |

**OVERVIEW**

**Description**

Participants will create some of the creatures which they’ve observed relyig on urban trees, out of supplies from trees!

**Learning Outcomes**

* Review the benefits of urban trees, and the myriad of creatures relying on them for food and shelter (you may wish to go for an exploratory walk around the area to get some inspiration)
* See how arts and crafts can be made from renewable materials

**Outline**

1. Explanation (5-10 min)
   1. What species rely on urban trees for food and shelter?
   2. How can we create those creatures out of seeds and other tree-materials?
2. Building/Decorating (45-60 min)
   1. Participants create their creatures and set them out to dry

**MATERIALS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Quantity per participant** |
| White glue | 4 small white bottles for group |
| Small hot glue gun | 4 glue guns for group |
| Reusable containers | 8 containers to hold materials |
| Paper plates | 1 plate |
| Pen/Pencils | 1 pen/pencil |
| Chestnuts, acorns, pinecones | Plenty! |
| Leaves, twigs, rocks etc. | Plenty! |
| Felt squares | 1 square |
| Acrylic paint | 2 sets of paint for group |
| Paint brushes | 1 brush |
| Toothpicks | 1 toothpick (for painting) |

**KEY INFORMATION**

* Find a place outside where you can do this craft, while also being able to plug in the hot glue guns. This may take some strategic planning, and the use of outdoor sockets. If that is not possible, forgo the glue guns and just have fun outside.
* It will help if you encourage participants to collect materials for this craft ahead of time (leaves, chestnuts, acorns, and pinecones)
* You may want to have example creatures prepared ahead of time

**LESSON PLAN & PROCEDURE**

**Outline**

1. Explanation (5-10 min)
   1. Discuss: What relies on urban trees for food and shelter, and how
      * Review the different living things in a city that rely on trees for food and shelter. It may help to review the book “Be a City Nature Detective” (Peggy Kochanoff). Eg. Squirrels (what do they eat?), bees (flowering trees are especially important), nesting birds (what materials do they use in their nests? What do they eat?), slugs and snails (how do they use the leaves that fall?), mice and rats, caterpillars, wasps (how do they build their homes?), owls, and of course people! See if participants can name a few local species
   2. How can we create those creatures out of seeds and other tree-materials?
      * Show participants the pictures below, and the examples you have made. Once you have a list of creatures that benefit from trees, there is really no limit to how you can make them. Encourage participants to choose one creature and start trying to make that. If they have time for more, great.
2. Building/Decorating (45-60 min)
   1. Participants create their creatures and set them out to dry on paper plates. They should write their names on the plates!

**Tips:**

Ash leaves make great animal tails

Small rocks, chestnuts, and acorns make great bodies

Toothpicks are great for painting detail onto things

Ash and maple seeds make excellent insect legs and wings

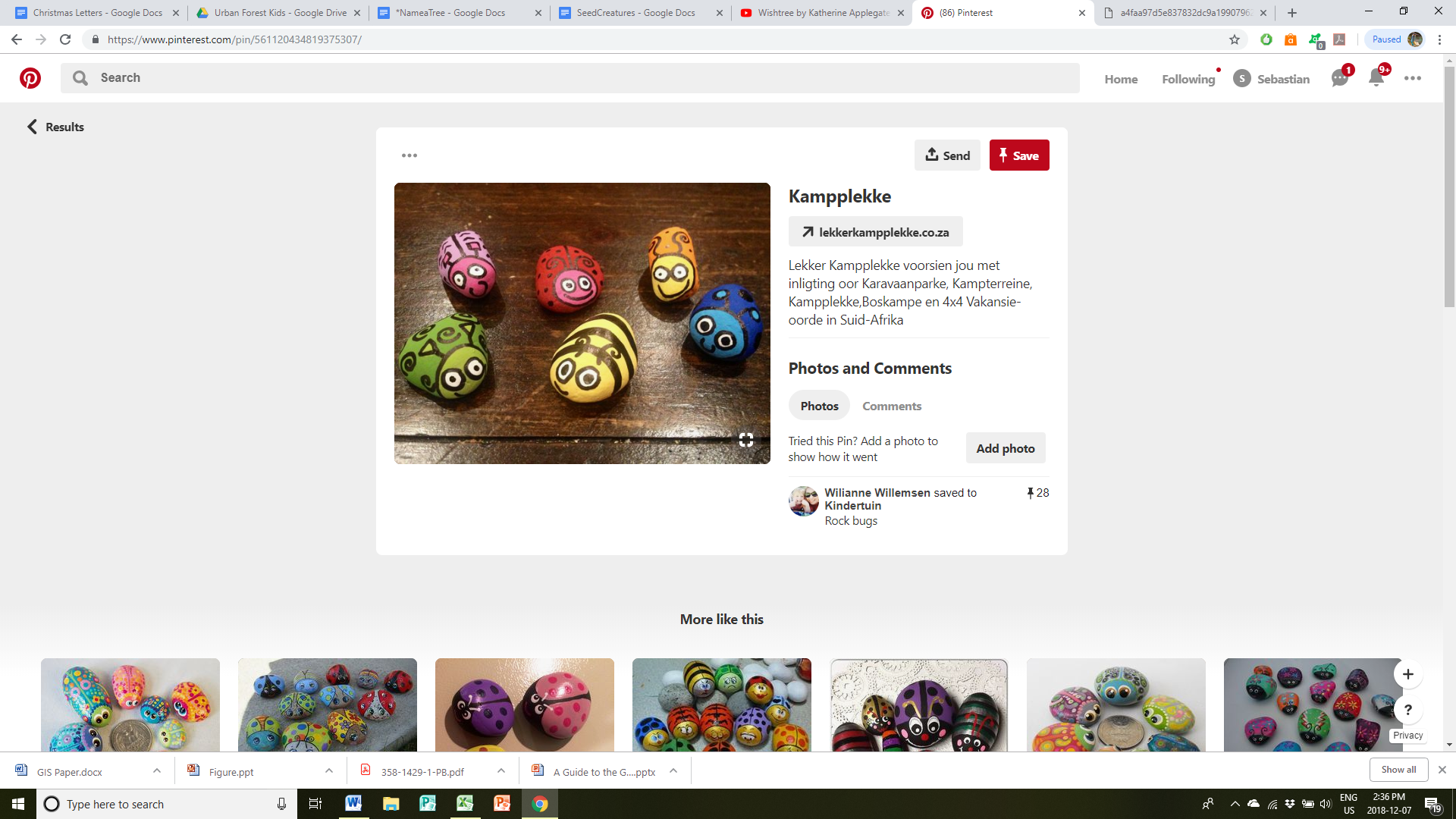
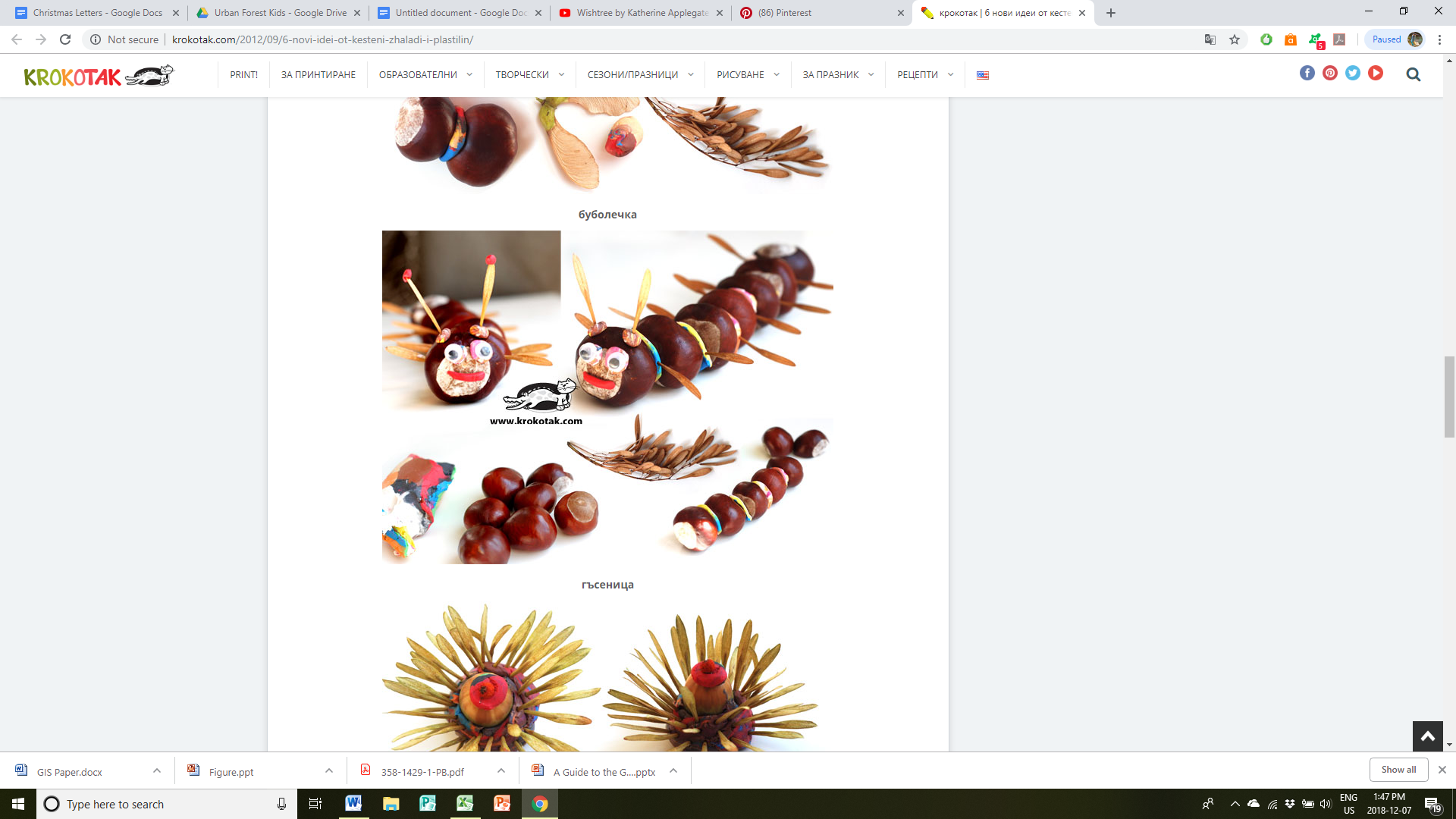
Moss is a fun adornment

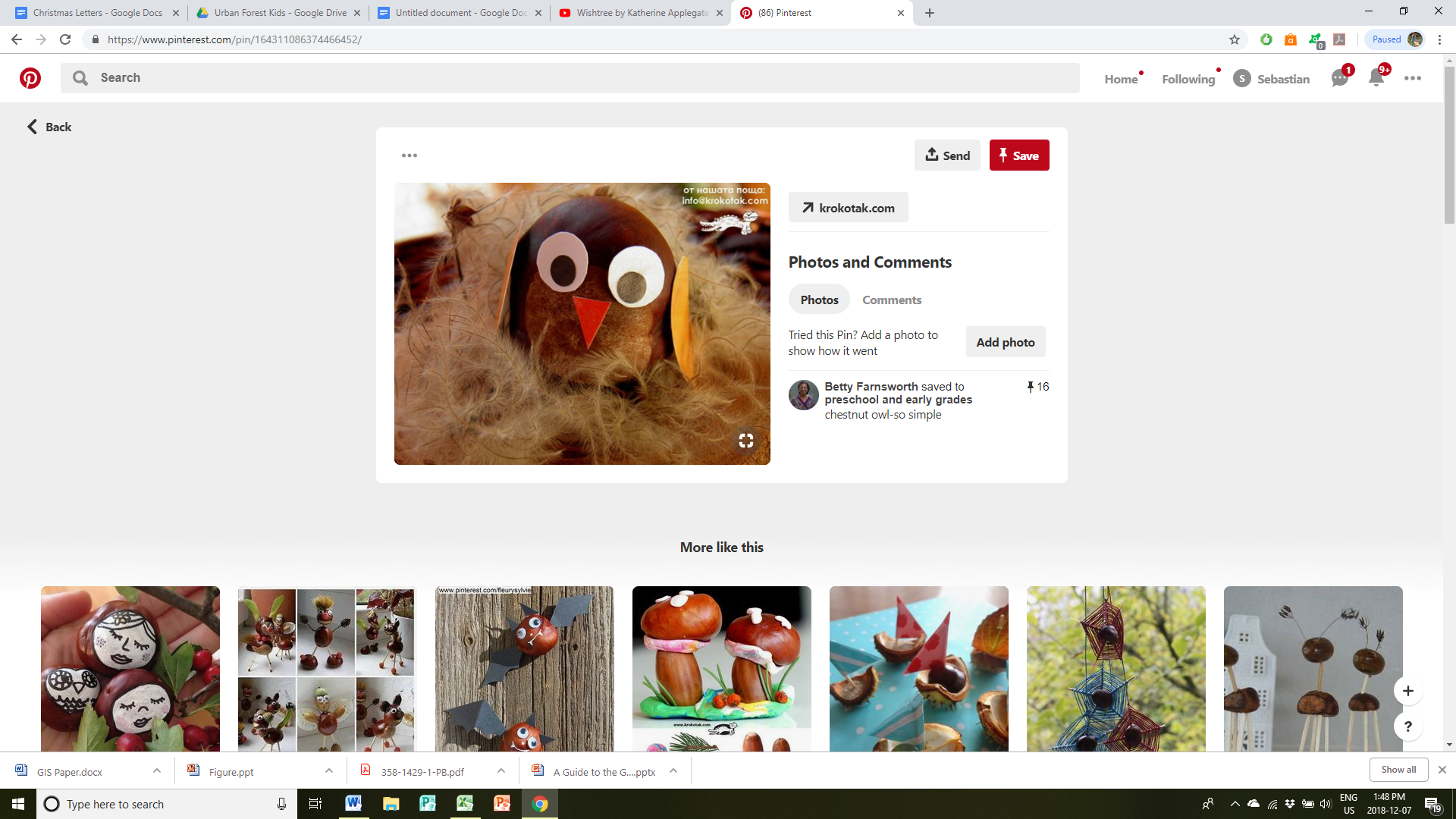
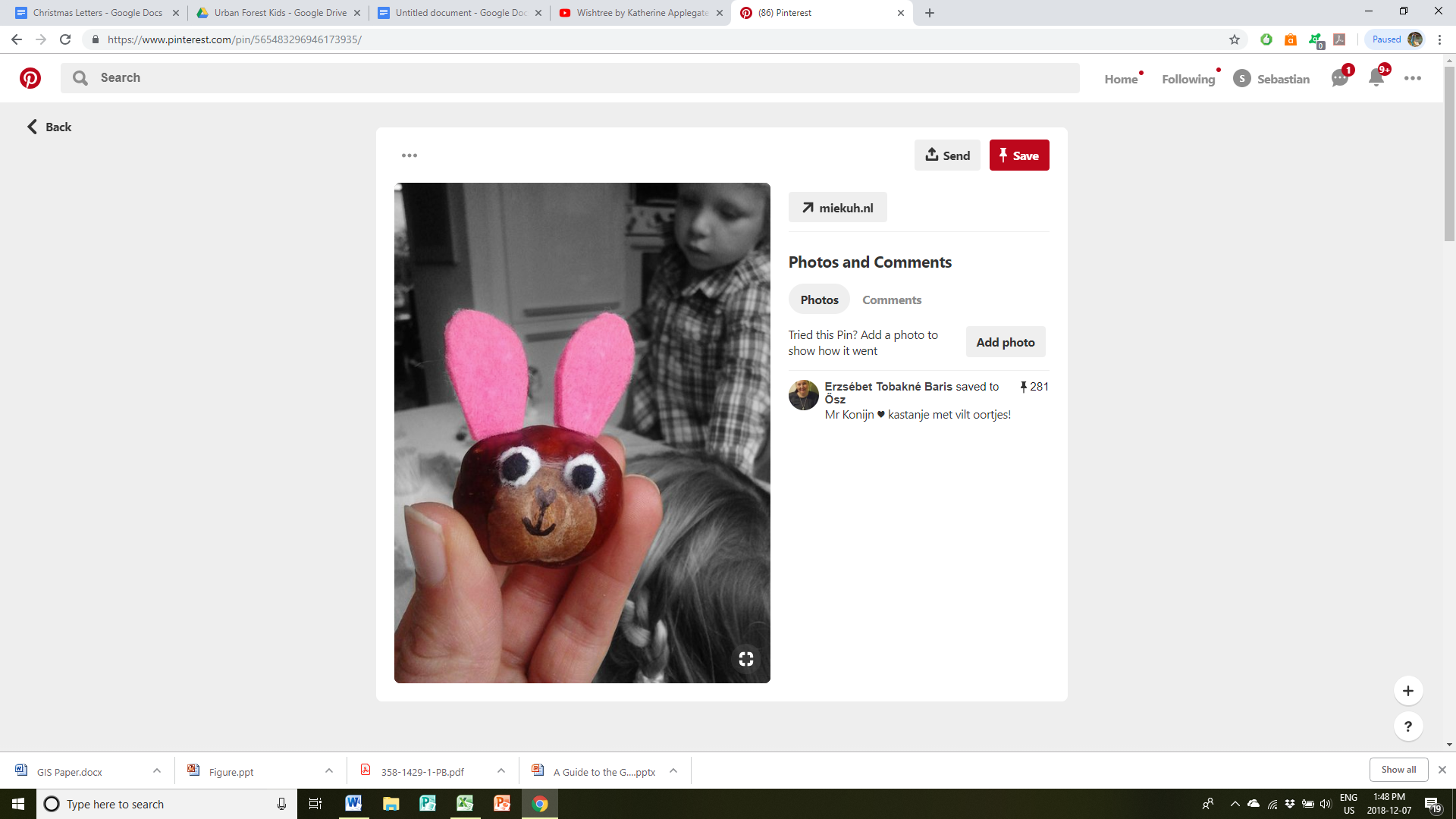
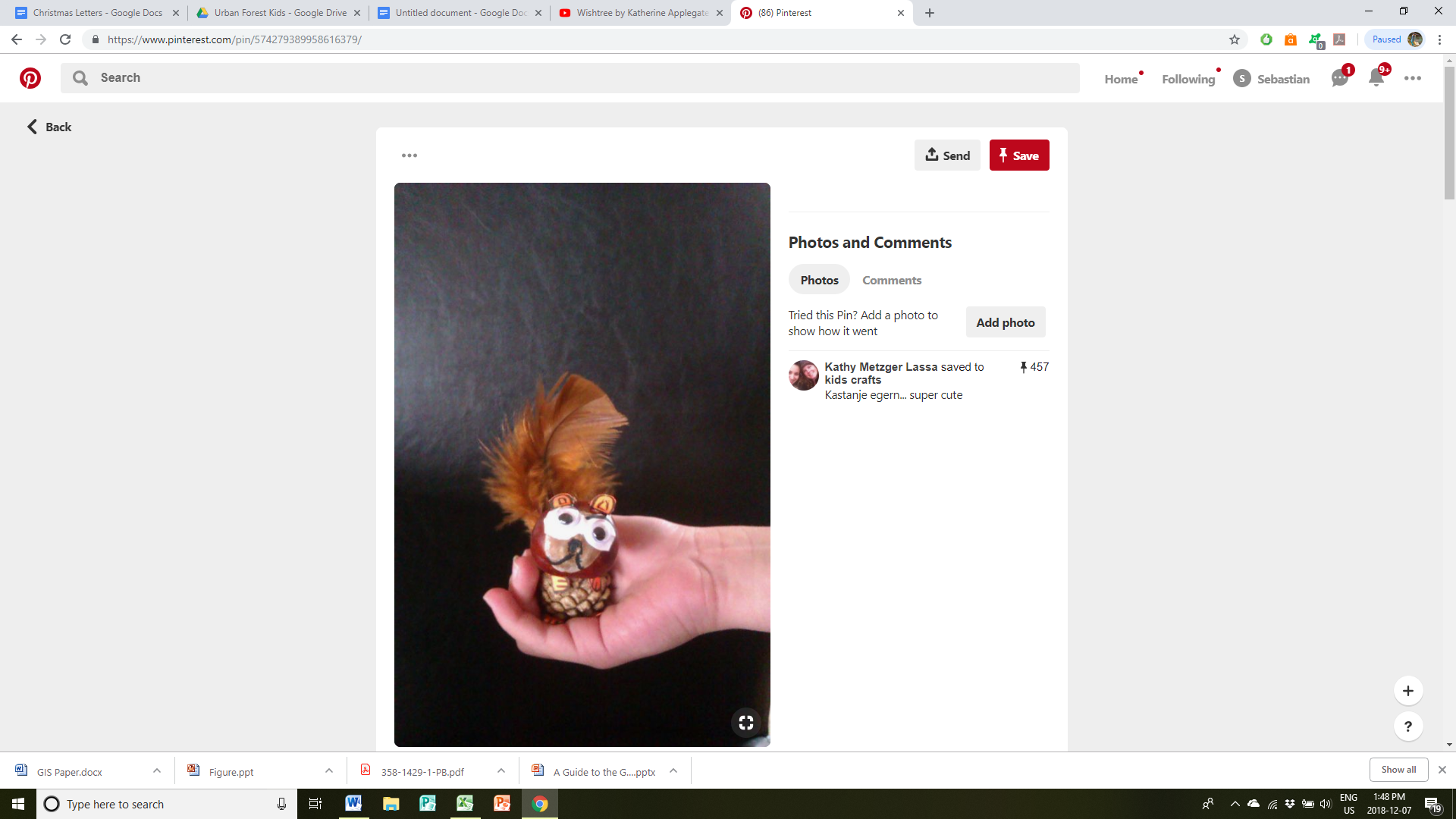
Maple leaves are great butterfly wings

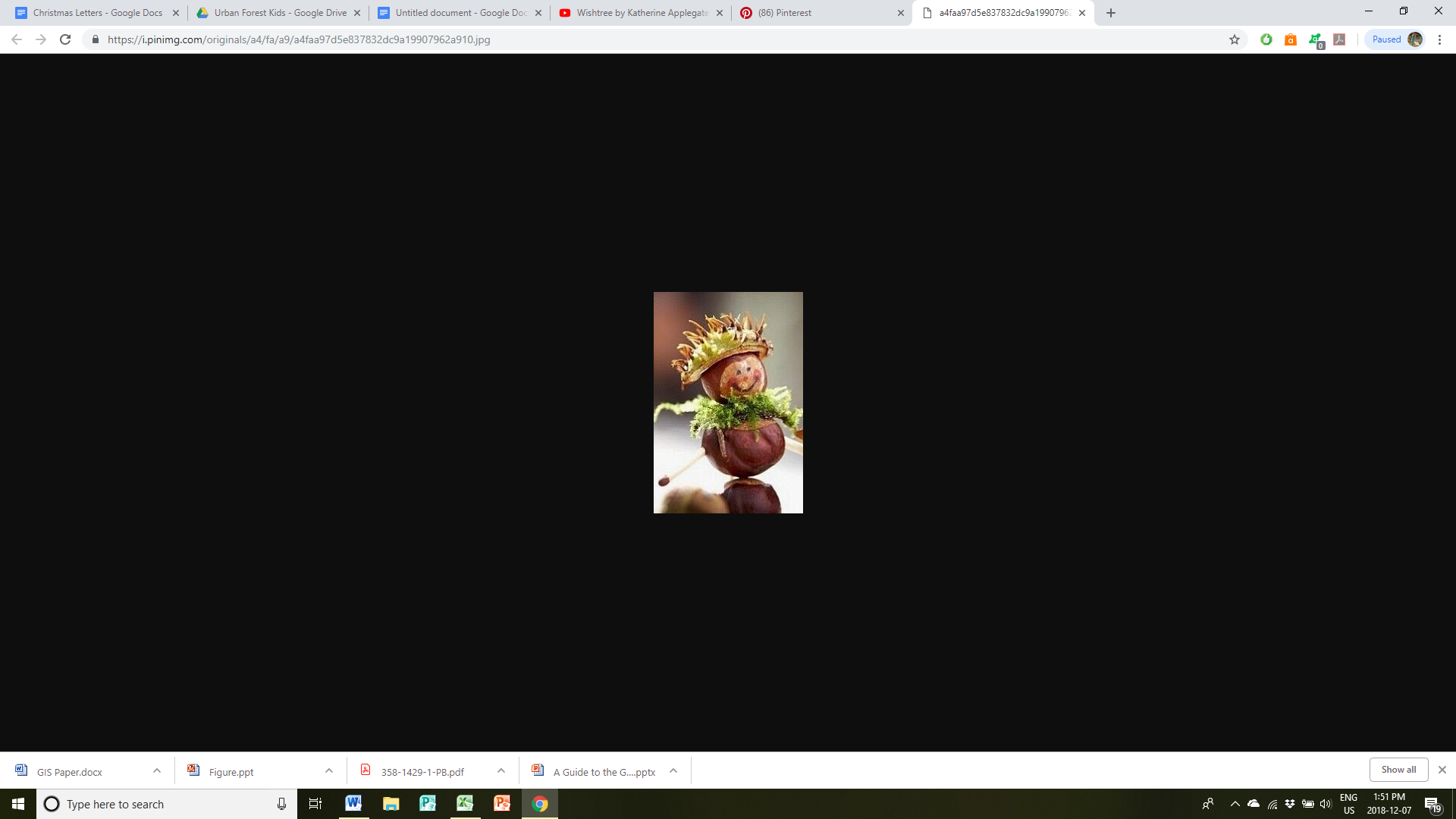
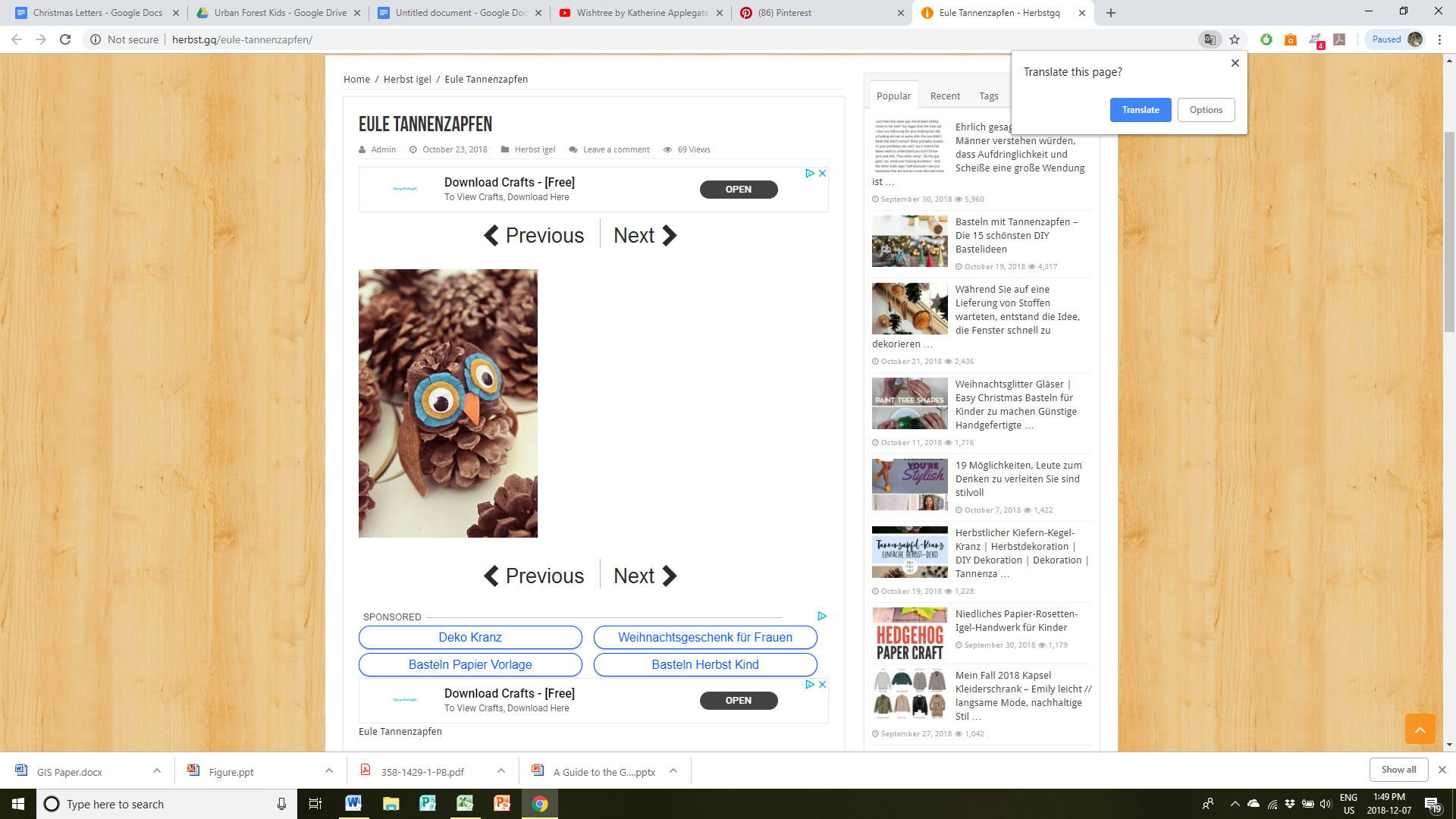
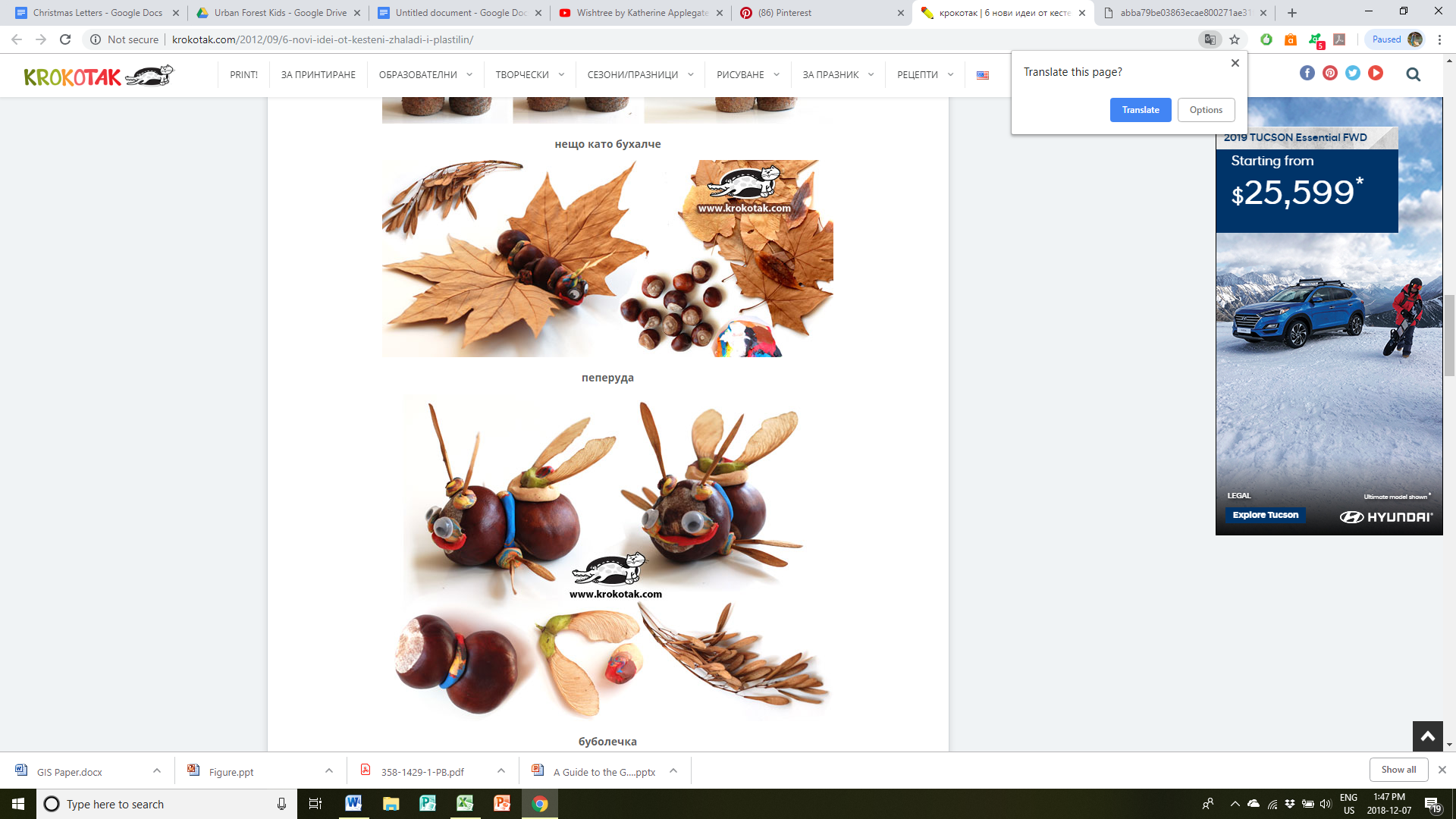
Instead of using glue, you could opt for sticky tack or clay

**Debrief**

● Humans, just like trees and butterflies and birds, are a part of nature. And there is more nature around us than we often realize, we just need to open our eyes to it!

****

**  **

**  **

**REFERENCES & RESOURCES**

<http://krokotak.com/2012/09/6-novi-idei-ot-kesteni-zhaladi-i-plastilin/>

<http://herbst.gq/eule-tannenzapfen/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/561120434819375307/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/378302437444322854/>