

NATURE DETECTIVE ADVENTURE

Outdoor Scavenger Hunts & Observation Journal



64 PAGES | AGES 3-6 | 50+ NATURE ACTIVITIES

MATERNITY MIRACLES

A Note for Grown-Ups

This book invites children to notice nature without needing to collect, touch, or complete every page.

Connection before completion

Choose one page, follow the child's curiosity, and stop when interest fades. Looking, pointing, drawing, moving, and asking questions all count.

Observe more than you collect

Most activities can be done by looking from a path, window, yard, balcony, or park bench. Leave living things and animal homes undisturbed.

Adapt for your child

Read the words aloud, simplify choices, skip writing, or let the child answer with gestures. Ages are a flexible guide, not a test.

Educational notice

This general activity book is not medical, developmental, therapeutic, or safety advice. Use professional guidance for individual concerns.

Safe Exploring Rules

Review these rules before every outing and follow all local guidance.

Stay together

Use active adult supervision. Choose age-appropriate locations away from traffic, drop-offs, deep water, severe weather, and other hazards.

Look, do not touch

Never touch unknown plants, mushrooms, wildlife, nests, insects, animal waste, sharp objects, standing water, or unsafe litter.

Protect bodies

A grown-up decides on clothing, footwear, sun protection, hydration, weather limits, insect precautions, and when it is time to go inside.

Respect the place

Stay on permitted paths, follow posted rules, keep food away from wildlife, take trash with you, and leave natural homes as you found them.

How to Use This Field Book

Try a simple rhythm: LOOK, WONDER, MOVE, REMEMBER.

1. LOOK

Choose one page and look closely for one to five minutes.

2. WONDER

Offer a describing word or open question. It is fine not to know the answer.

3. MOVE

If the page includes movement, use a flat, open, safe space.

4. REMEMBER

Draw one clue, say one sentence, or mark one box - then stop.

Your Simple Explorer Kit

You do not need special equipment. A few ordinary supplies are enough.

Helpful basics

Printed pages, clipboard or hard book, washable crayons, pencil, reusable water bottle, and weather-appropriate clothing.

Optional extras

Child-safe binoculars or magnifier only when current manufacturer age guidance fits and a grown-up supervises.

Leave behind

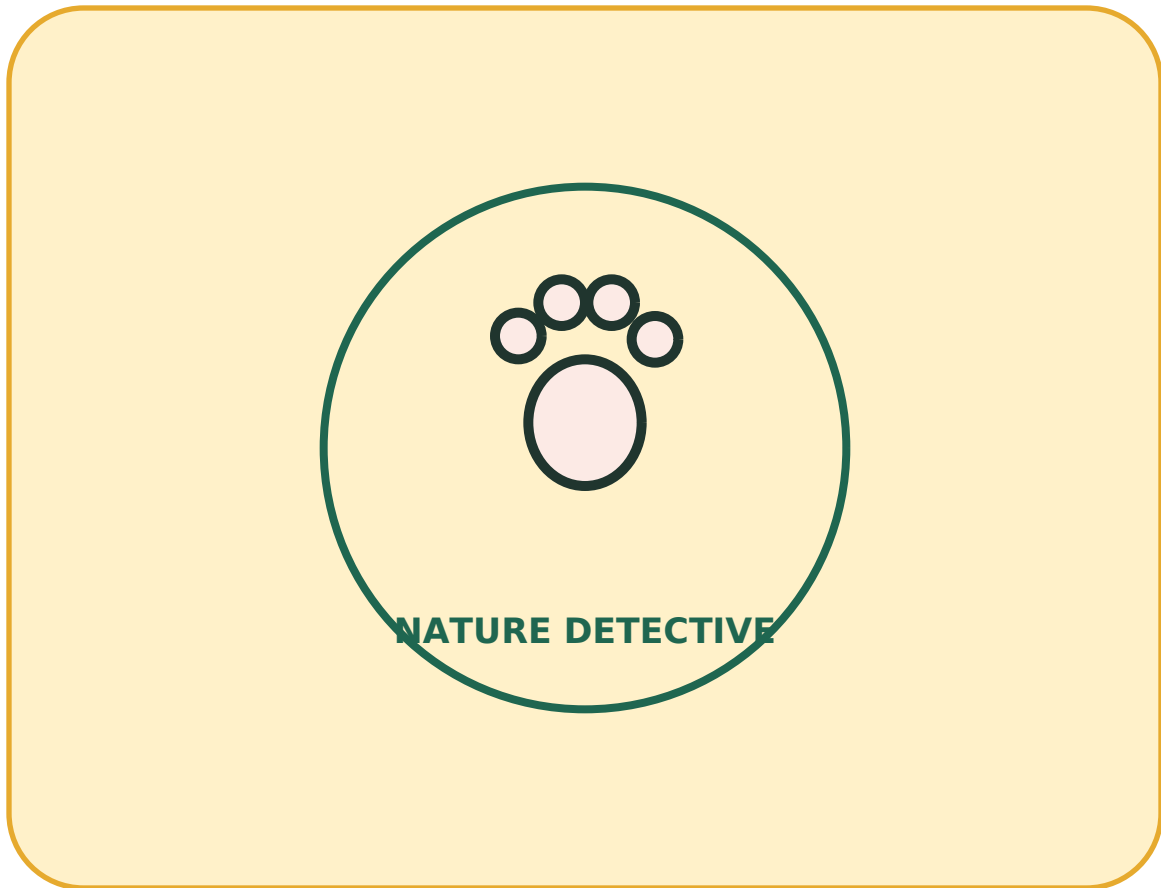
Glass containers, sharp tools, plastic bags, small loose parts, chemicals, and anything used to trap or handle wildlife.

Best tool

A calm grown-up who can slow down, notice one detail, and model respectful curiosity.

My Nature Detective Badge

Write your name, decorate the badge, and choose your explorer promise.



My name: _____

- ☐ I look closely.
- ☐ I use gentle hands and leave living things where they belong.
- ☐ I explore with a grown-up.

The Green Hunt

Green can look bright, dark, soft, shiny, or striped.

Find four different green things. Point, name, or draw each one.

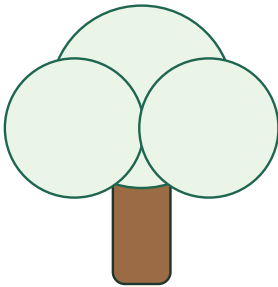
Look without picking living plants unless a grown-up says it is okay.



☐ A green leaf



☐ A green plant



☐ A dark green spot



☐ A tiny green detail

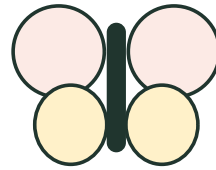
Warm Color Hunt

Search for red, orange, and yellow in safe places.

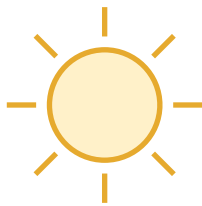
Can you find one warm color in nature and one on something people made?



☐ Something red



☐ Something orange



☐ Something yellow



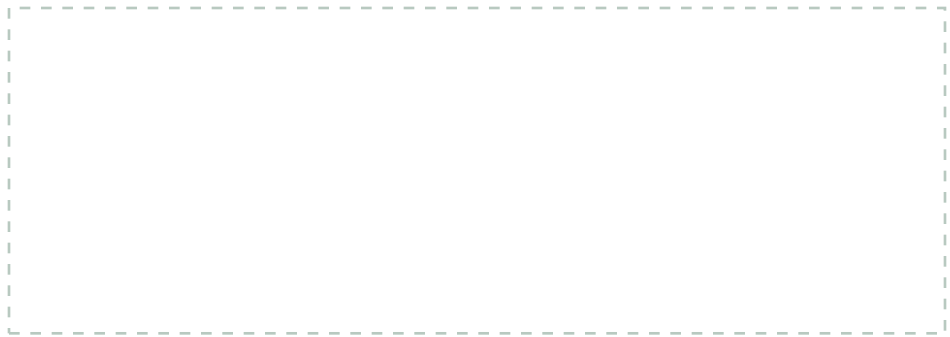
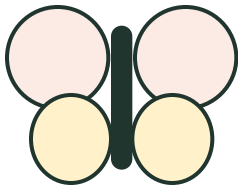
☐ Your favorite

Build a Nature Rainbow

Notice colors in order without needing to collect anything.

Look for red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Draw the colors you find.

MY NATURE DRAWING



The easiest color to find was...

The hardest color to find was...

My favorite color today was...

Circles Outdoors

Round shapes appear in seeds, flowers, puddles, and more.

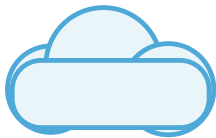
Find or imagine four round nature shapes. Check each one you notice.



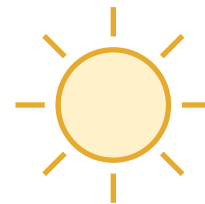
☐ A round flower center



☐ A round stone



☐ A round puddle



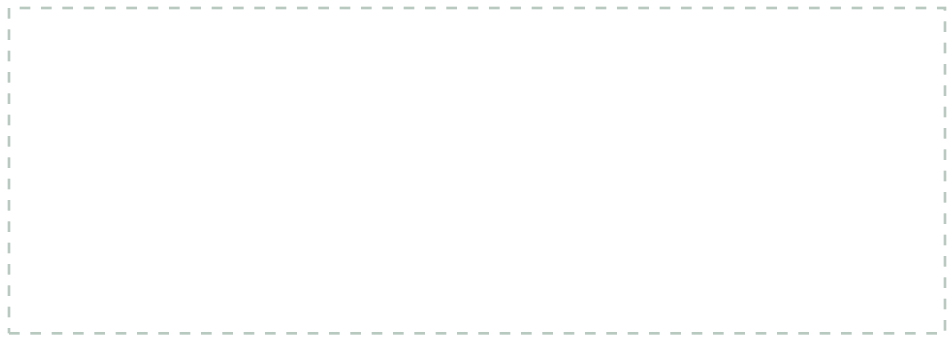
☐ A round sun

Lines in Nature

Lines may be straight, wavy, curved, or zigzagged.

Trace one line in the air with your finger, then draw a line you saw.

MY NATURE DRAWING



My line was straight, wavy, curved, or zigzagged:

I found the line on:

Draw another kind of line:

Triangle Search

Look for three-point shapes in leaves, branches, and spaces.

Find a shape with three sides, or make one with three safe sticks on the ground.



DRAW WHAT YOU NOTICE



Where did you see a triangle?

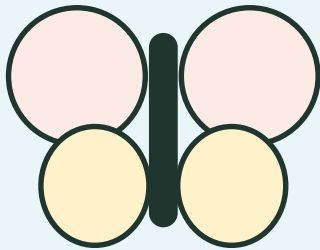
Was it wide or narrow?

Can you draw one more triangle?

Nature Symmetry

Some shapes look almost the same on both sides.

Look at the butterfly. Draw a matching pattern on both wings.



DRAW WHAT YOU NOTICE



What looks the same?

What looks different?

Where else can you find two sides?

Repeat the Pattern

Patterns repeat in a predictable order.

Say the pattern aloud: leaf, acorn, leaf, acorn. What comes next?

LEAF - ACORN - LEAF



ACORN

SUN - CLOUD - SUN



CLOUD

BIRD - TRACK - BIRD



TRACK

FLOWER - LEAF - FLOWER



LEAF

Draw a line to connect each pair.

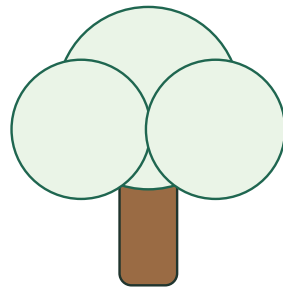
Texture Detective

Use words for what safe surfaces look and feel like.

With a grown-up, compare four safe textures. Do not touch unknown plants or animals.



☐ Something smooth



☐ Something bumpy



☐ Something soft

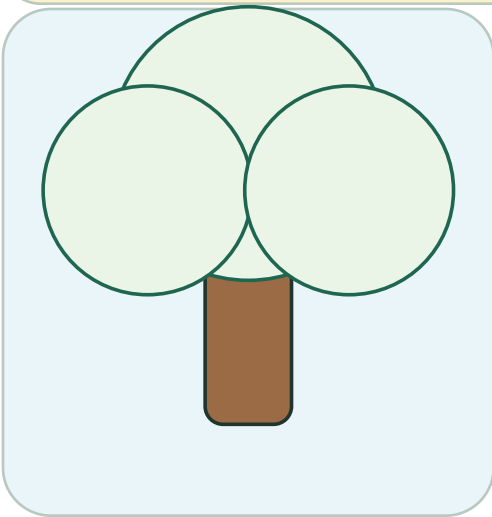


☐ Something rough

Parts of a Tree

Roots, trunk, branches, and leaves each have a job.

Point to each tree part. Draw a tiny creature home where it could safely belong.



DRAW WHAT YOU NOTICE



Which part is highest?

Which part is thickest?

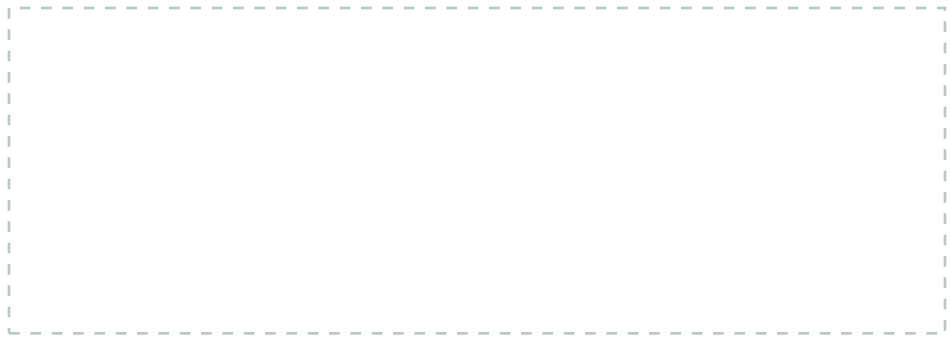
What lives near trees where you are?

Leaf Edge Detective

Leaf edges can be smooth, wavy, or toothed.

Look at leaves without picking them. Draw two different leaf edges.

MY NATURE DRAWING



One edge looked like:

The other edge looked like:

Which leaf was bigger?

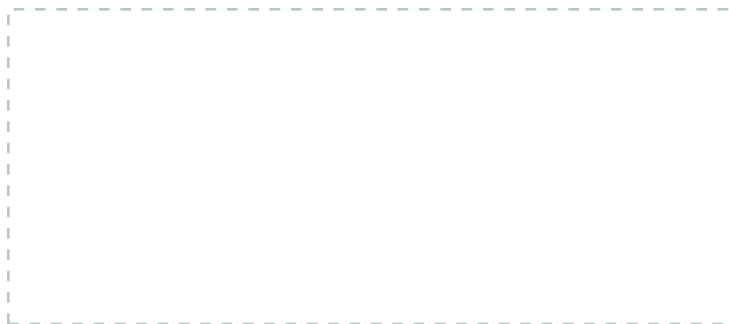
Find a Leaf Pair

Two leaves can be alike without being exactly the same.

Find two fallen leaves or look at two leaves still growing. Compare them.



DRAW WHAT YOU NOTICE



What is the same?

What is different?

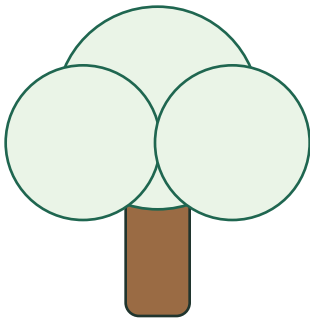
Which leaf has more visible lines?

Bark Rubbing

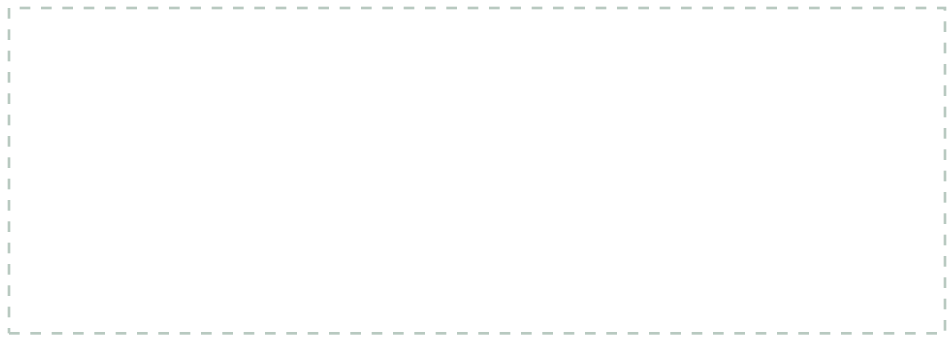
A rubbing can reveal patterns our eyes miss.

A grown-up may hold paper on safe tree bark while you rub gently with the side of a crayon.

Never peel bark. Skip this activity if the tree or location should not be touched.



MY NATURE DRAWING



My bark pattern looks:

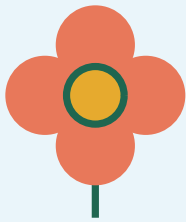
I see lines that are:

Tree location:

Flower Watch

Flowers come in many shapes and sizes.

Observe a flower without picking it. Count petals only if they are easy to see.



DRAW WHAT YOU NOTICE



What colors do you see?

Are the petals wide or narrow?

Did any insect visit?

How Seeds Travel

Seeds may move by wind, water, animals, or gravity.

Match each seed journey to a movement clue.

LIGHT SEED



FLOATS ON WIND

BERRY SEED



RIDES WITH AN ANIMAL

HEAVY NUT



FALLS DOWN

WATER SEED



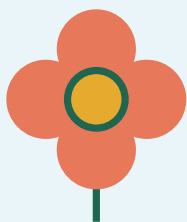
DRIFTS OR SPLASHES

Draw a line to connect each pair.

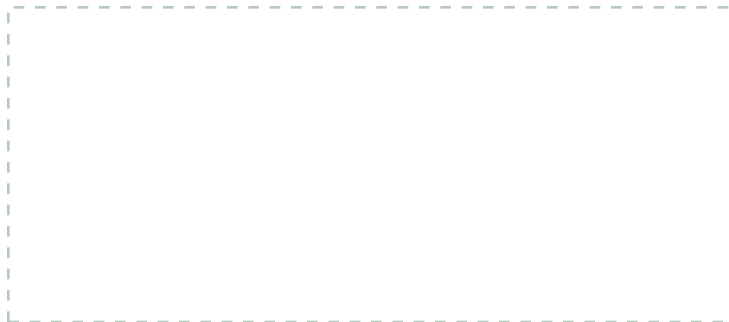
Tall and Short Plants

Plants grow at different heights.

Find one taller plant and one shorter plant. Look from a safe path.



DRAW WHAT YOU NOTICE



Which one was taller?

Which one had more leaves?

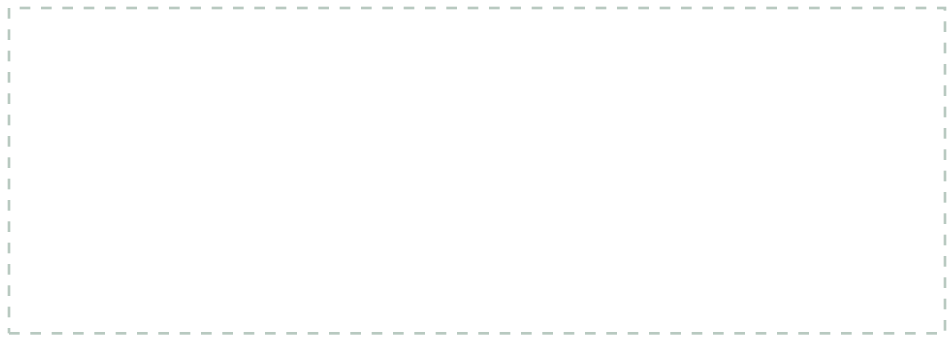
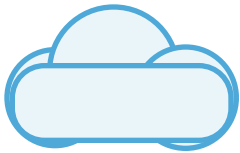
How were they alike?

Today's Sky

The sky changes from hour to hour and day to day.

Look outside with a grown-up. Draw the sky exactly as it looks right now.

MY NATURE DRAWING



The sky color is:

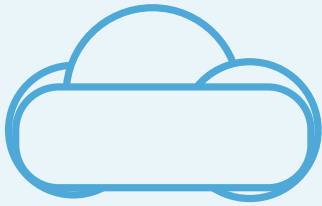
I see clouds / no clouds:

The light feels bright / soft / dim:

Cloud Shape Stories

Clouds can inspire pictures and stories.

Watch clouds from a safe place. What shape does one cloud remind you of?



DRAW WHAT YOU NOTICE



My cloud looked like:

It moved toward:

Tell one sentence about it:

Sun and Shade

Shade changes how a place looks and feels.

With a grown-up, compare one sunny spot and one shady spot without staring at the sun.

SUNNY SPOT

- ☐ Brighter
- ☐ Warmer
- ☐ Sharp shadow

SHADY SPOT

- ☐ Darker
- ☐ Cooler
- ☐ Soft shadow

Talk together. Some answers may depend on where you live.

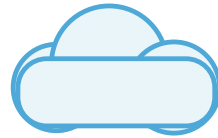
Wind Detective

We cannot see wind, but we can see what it moves.

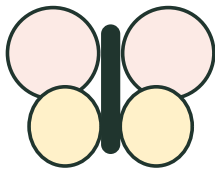
Find four clues that the air is moving.



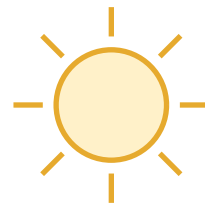
☐ Leaves moving



☐ Clouds traveling



☐ Hair or clothes moving



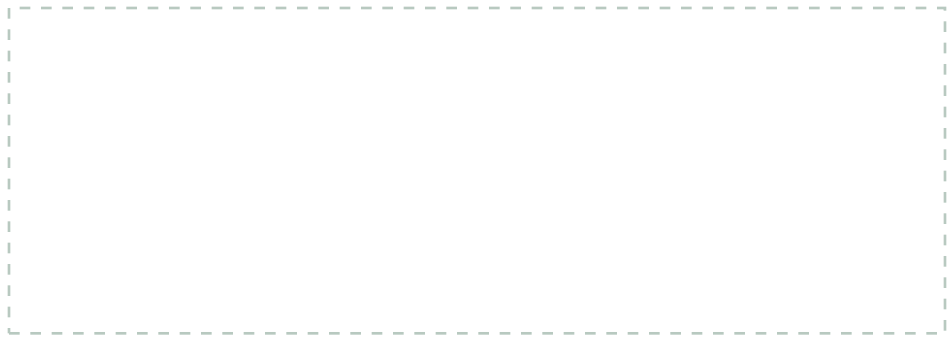
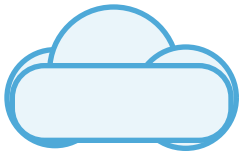
☐ Water rippling

Rain Sound Map

Rain makes different sounds on different surfaces.

Listen from a safe, dry place. Draw a mark each time you hear a new rain sound.

MY NATURE DRAWING



Rain on a window sounded:

Rain on a roof sounded:

The quietest sound was:

Weather Words

Use describing words instead of right-or-wrong answers.

Circle or say the words that fit today.

SKY

☐ Clear

☐ Cloudy

☐ Bright

☐ Gray

AIR

☐ Still

☐ Breezy

☐ Warm

☐ Cool

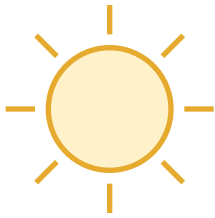
Talk together. Some answers may depend on where you live.

Three-Day Weather Tracker

Patterns become easier to notice over time.

Use one row each day. Draw the sky and choose a weather word.

MY NATURE DRAWING



DAY 1 - Sky and weather:

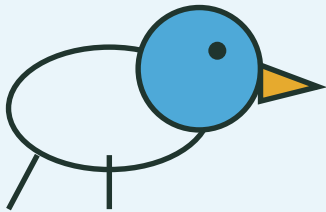
DAY 2 - Sky and weather:

DAY 3 - What changed?

Bird Watch

Watch birds from a respectful distance.

Find one bird. Notice its size, colors, movement, and sound without chasing it.



DRAW WHAT YOU NOTICE



The bird was big / medium / small:

Its colors were:

It walked / hopped / flew / perched:

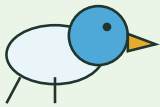
Move Like a Bird

Use your body to explore different bird movements.

Try each movement in a safe open space with a grown-up.

1

PERCH



Balance still like a bird on a branch.

2

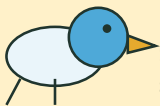
HOP



Make three small, careful hops.

3

GLIDE



Stretch your arms and walk slowly.

4

PECK



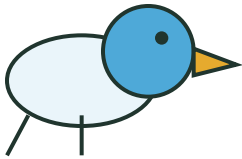
Tap the air gently with one finger.

Bird Sound Map

A sound map shows where sounds seem to come from.

Sit quietly for one minute. Mark sounds in front, behind, left, or right of you.

MY NATURE DRAWING



A sound in front:

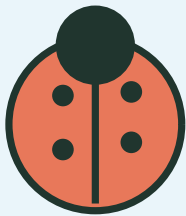
A sound behind:

The closest sound:

Insect Observer

Look closely without touching, trapping, or moving insects.

Watch one insect from a safe distance. Let it choose where to go.



DRAW WHAT YOU NOTICE



How many legs could you see?

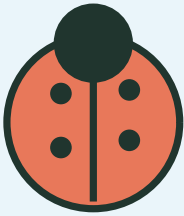
Did it crawl, fly, or rest?

What colors or patterns did it have?

Ladybug Spots

Counting is one way to notice a pattern.

Count the visible spots. Add your own matching spots on both sides.



DRAW WHAT YOU NOTICE



I counted this many spots:

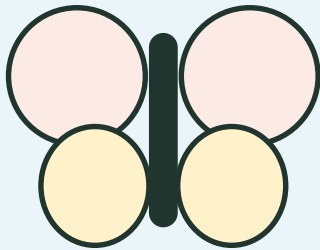
Were the two sides the same?

Draw one more spot pattern:

Butterfly Symmetry

Many butterfly wings have similar patterns on both sides.

Draw a simple shape on one wing, then repeat it on the other.



DRAW WHAT YOU NOTICE



Which shape did you repeat?

Which colors would you add?

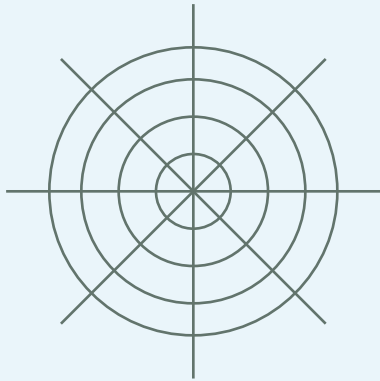
What does symmetry mean to you?

Spiderweb Patterns

Webs can show circles, lines, curves, and spaces.

Look at the web drawing. Trace one circle and one line in the air.

Never touch a web or spider.



DRAW WHAT YOU NOTICE



Where do the lines meet?

Which space is biggest?

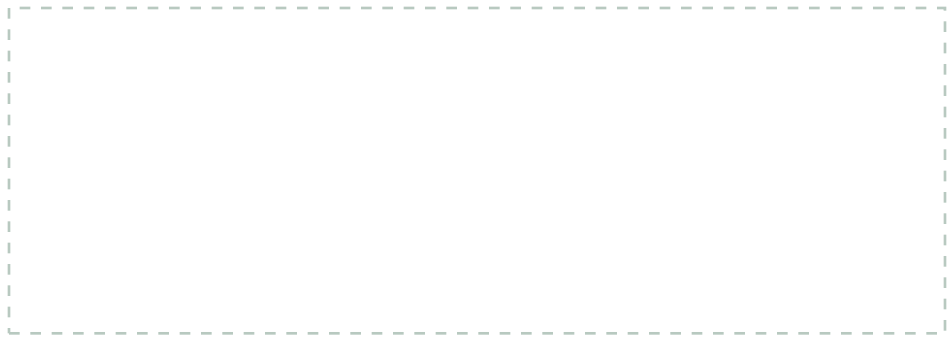
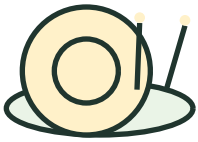
Draw a safe pretend web:

Follow the Snail Trail

Slow observation can reveal tiny changes.

Trace an imaginary slow, curving path. Then draw your own path from START to HOME.

MY NATURE DRAWING



My path curves around:

One slow thing I noticed:

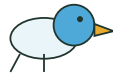
One fast thing I noticed:

Creature Homes

Animals need safe places for rest, food, and shelter.

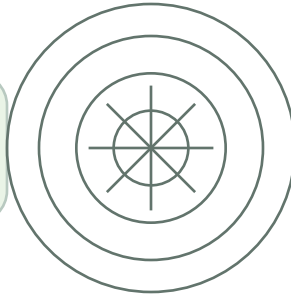
Match each creature to the kind of place it may use. Habitats vary by species.

BIRD



NEST OR TREE SPACE

SPIDER



WEB AREA

SNAIL



DAMP SHELTER

INSECT



LEAF OR SOIL SPACE

Draw a line to connect each pair.

Track Match

Tracks are clues, not invitations to follow wildlife.

Compare the shapes. Match each movement clue to a pretend track.

HOPPER



TWO FEET TOGETHER

WALKER



STEP AFTER STEP

CRAWLER



LOW, TINY MARKS

FLIER



LANDING MARKS

Draw a line to connect each pair.

Who Moved Here?

Look for safe clues without disturbing animal homes.

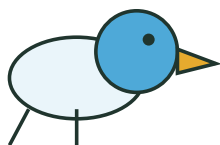
Find four movement clues on a path, lawn, sand, snow, or from a window.



☐ A footprint



☐ A bent leaf



☐ A feather



☐ A trail or line

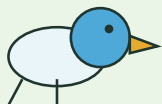
Hop, Crawl, Fly

Move like different animals in a safe open space.

Try each action once, then choose your favorite.

1

HOP



Hop gently like a small bird.

2

CRAWL



Crawl slowly like a tiny creature.

3

GLIDE



Stretch your arms and walk smoothly.

4

PAUSE



Freeze and listen for three sounds.

Slow and Fast

Nature moves at many speeds.

Act out each movement. Keep your body under control and use a clear space.

SLOW

☐ Snail crawl

☐ Cloud drift

☐ Leaf fall

FAST

☐ Butterfly flutter

☐ Bird hop

☐ Wind gust

Talk together. Some answers may depend on where you live.

Balance Trail

Balance uses eyes, muscles, and careful attention.

Follow a safe line on the ground. Never balance on walls, logs, rocks, or raised surfaces.

1



LOOK

Choose a flat, clear line.

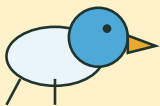
2



STEP

Walk heel-to-toe slowly.

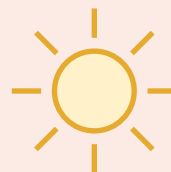
3



PAUSE

Stop and count to three.

4



TURN

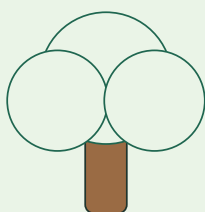
Turn around and walk back.

Nature Obstacle Walk

Use safe ground-level clues - not climbing challenges.

Create a simple course with a grown-up using open space and pretend landmarks.

1



AROUND

Walk around a pretend tree.

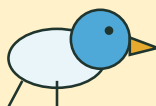
2



OVER

Step over a chalk line.

3



UNDER

Duck under an adult's raised arm.

4



STOP

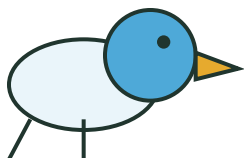
Freeze at the flower sign.

Quiet Listening Walk

Moving quietly can help us notice more.

Take ten slow steps with a grown-up. Stop, close your mouth, and listen.

MY NATURE DRAWING



The nearest sound was:

The farthest sound was:

A sound I almost missed:

Spring Clue Hunt

Spring clues vary by climate and location.

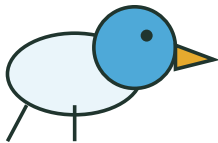
Find any clues that fit where you live. It is okay if some are not present.



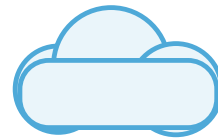
☐ New green growth



☐ A flower



☐ A bird sound

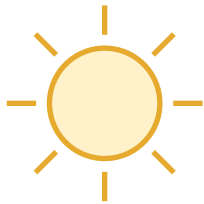


☐ Rain or damp ground

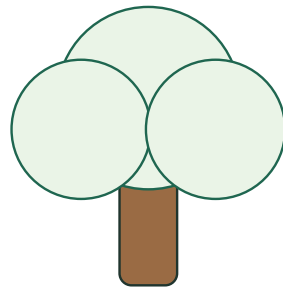
Summer Clue Hunt

Use shade, water, and sun protection as your grown-up directs.

Notice summer clues without staying outside too long in heat.



☐ Bright light



☐ Deep shade



☐ An active insect



☐ A dry or warm clue

Fall Clue Hunt

Fall may bring changing colors, seeds, wind, or cooler air.

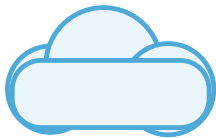
Look for four seasonal changes. Leave living things where they belong.



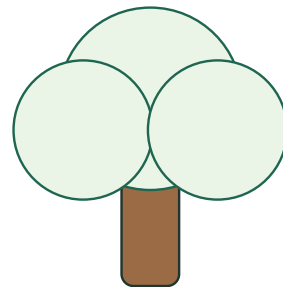
☐ A fallen leaf



☐ A seed or nut



☐ A windy clue

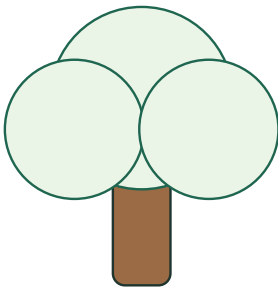


☐ A changing color

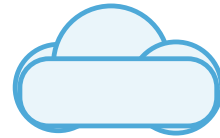
Winter Clue Hunt

Winter looks different in snowy, rainy, dry, and warm places.

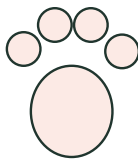
Choose clues that fit your location and stay dressed for the weather.



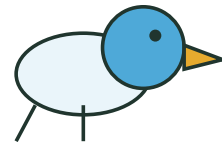
☐ Bare branches



☐ Cold or cool air



☐ Snow, rain, or dry ground

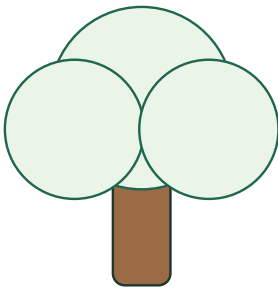


☐ A winter bird

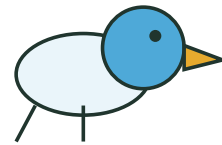
Park Detective

Stay with your grown-up and follow posted park rules.

Find four clues from a path, play area, bench, or open lawn.



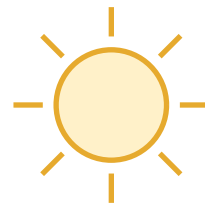
☐ A tall tree



☐ A bird



☐ A tiny texture

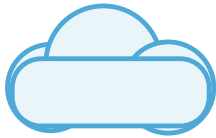


☐ A people-made shape

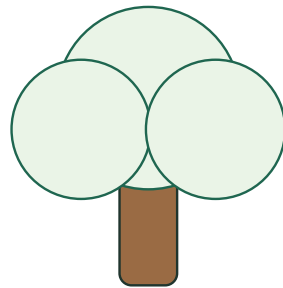
Explore From Home

Nature can be observed from a yard, balcony, doorstep, or window.

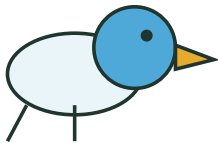
Choose a safe viewing place with a grown-up. Look for four clues.



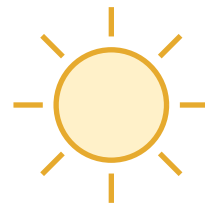
☐ A patch of sky



☐ A moving branch



☐ A bird or insect

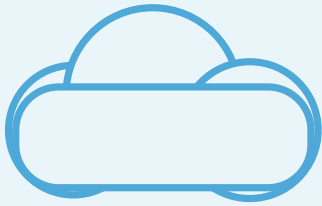


☐ Light and shadow

Pond or Water Watch

Observe water only from a safe distance with close adult supervision.

Never enter or reach into water. Look for surface clues from a protected spot.



DRAW WHAT YOU NOTICE



Was the water still or moving?

What reflected on the surface?

What sound did you hear?

Kind to Plants

Plants grow best when their roots, stems, leaves, and flowers stay safe.

Sort the choices into **KIND TO PLANTS** and **TRY AGAIN**.

KIND TO PLANTS

- ☐ Stay on the path
- ☐ Look closely
- ☐ Water with permission

TRY AGAIN

- ☐ Pull a living flower
- ☐ Peel tree bark
- ☐ Step on garden plants

Talk together. Some answers may depend on where you live.

Kind to Animals

Wild animals need space and should choose where to go.

Sort the choices into **KIND TO ANIMALS** and **TRY AGAIN**.

KIND TO ANIMALS

- ☐ Watch quietly
- ☐ Keep food away
- ☐ Let insects move

TRY AGAIN

- ☐ Chase a bird
- ☐ Touch a nest
- ☐ Trap a creature

Talk together. Some answers may depend on where you live.

Leave No Trace

A good explorer leaves a place ready for the next visitor.

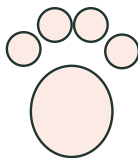
Check the actions that help protect outdoor spaces.



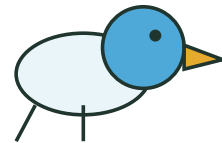
☐ Take trash with you



☐ Leave living things



☐ Stay on safe paths



☐ Use a quiet voice

Litter Helper

Only an adult should decide what is safe to pick up.

Sort pretend items. Never touch sharp, dirty, unknown, or hazardous litter.

ADULT MAY RECYCLE

☐ Clean bottle

☐ Clean paper

☐ Cardboard

ADULT PUTS IN TRASH

☐ Dirty tissue

☐ Food wrapper

☐ Broken object - do not touch

Talk together. Some answers may depend on where you live.

Water Care

Clean water matters to people, plants, and animals.

Choose actions that help keep water areas clean.

HELPS WATER

- ☐ Use a trash can
- ☐ Stay on paths
- ☐ Watch from shore

HURTS WATER

- ☐ Drop a wrapper
- ☐ Pour unknown liquid
- ☐ Disturb a nest

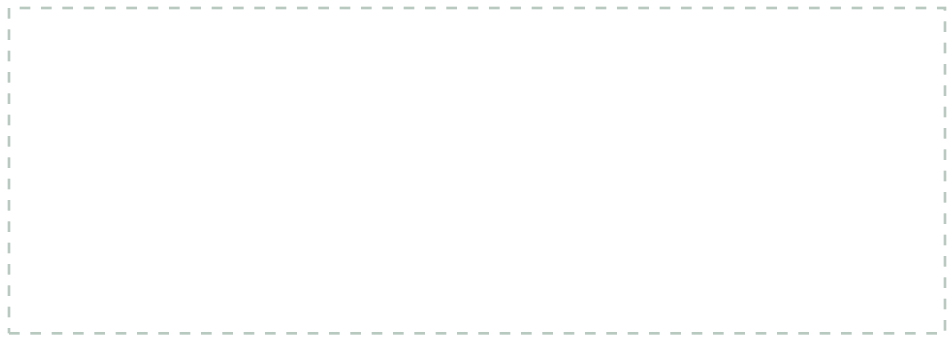
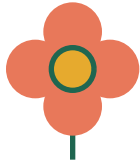
Talk together. Some answers may depend on where you live.

Nature Gratitude

Noticing what we enjoy can help us care about a place.

Draw one nature moment that made you feel curious, calm, or happy.

MY NATURE DRAWING



I am thankful for:

It made me feel:

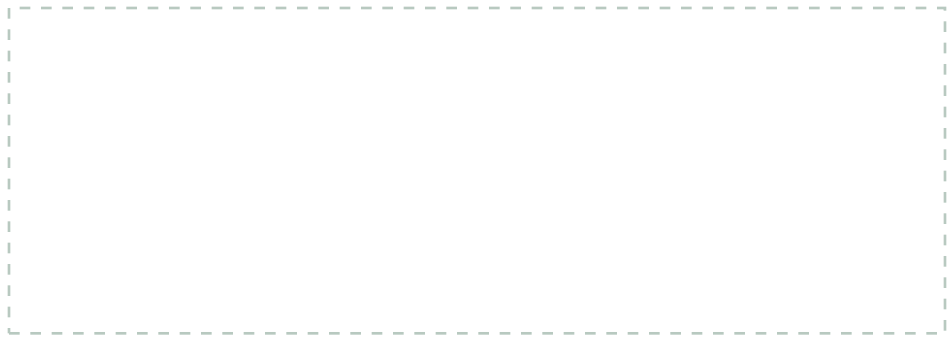
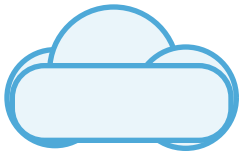
One way I can care for this place:

Window Nature Watch

A window can become a safe observation station.

Look outside for three minutes. Notice what moves and what stays still.

MY NATURE DRAWING



Something that moved:

Something that stayed still:

One change I noticed:

Five-Minute Nature Routines

Tiny observation habits can fit into normal family days.

1

WINDOW CHECK

Name the sky color and one weather word.

2

DOORSTEP LISTEN

Pause for three sounds before leaving home.

3

COLOR OF THE DAY

Choose one color and notice it during an errand.

4

ONE-TREE HELLO

Notice the same tree each week and talk about changes.

5

BEDTIME REMEMBER

Name one outdoor detail you saw today.

Stop while the experience still feels positive. One observation is enough.

Plan a Nature Walk

A simple plan helps grown-ups choose a safe, realistic outing.

Where we will go:

Who is coming:

Weather check:

What we will bring:

One safety rule:

One thing we hope to notice:

Grown-up check: clothing, water, weather, location rules, and active supervision.

Turn around early if the outing is no longer comfortable or safe.

A Nature Moment to Remember

Record connection and curiosity - not perfect answers.

DRAW OR ADD A PHOTO HERE



Where we explored:

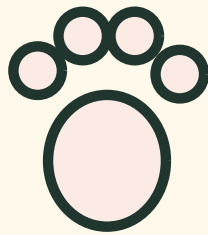
Something my child noticed:

A new word, question, or movement:

A moment that made us smile:

Nature Detective Certificate

Celebrate careful looking, gentle choices, and time spent together.



THIS CERTIFIES THAT

completed a Nature Detective Adventure

by looking closely, moving safely, and caring for nature.

Date: _____

Grown-up: _____

CURIOUS | CAREFUL | KIND

Keep Exploring Together

The book is complete on its own. Optional ideas can extend favorite activities.

FREE NATURE DETECTIVE COMPANION GUIDE

More five-minute ideas, safe household supplies, and optional learning tools



SCAN TO OPEN THE COMPANION GUIDE

maternitymiracles.com/pages/nature-detective-learning-tools

Use active adult supervision. Follow local rules and current manufacturer age guidance for any optional product. Never touch unknown plants, wildlife, nests, mushrooms, sharp objects, or unsafe litter.

Thank you for exploring with Maternity Miracles.