

CURIOUS EXPLORER

2ND-5TH GRADE

NGSS: 1-LS1; 2-LS1, LS2; 3-LS2, LS3, LS4; 4-LS1; 5-LCS1, LS2, PS3; MS-LS1, LS2, LS4, ESS3

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Use observations and questions to study a natural object.
- Provide possible explanations of natural phenomena using evidence.
- Recognize patterns and basic causes and effects in nature.

PRE-TRIP DISCUSSION TOPICS

- How can we show respect to nature?
- How can we help protect plants, animals, and the environment when we visit natural spaces?
- Who are some amazing observers (professions, historical figures, peers, family members, etc.) and what makes them good observers?
- Discuss what Sherlock Holmes means by: "I see no more than you, but I have trained myself to notice what I see" (Sir Author Conan Doyle).

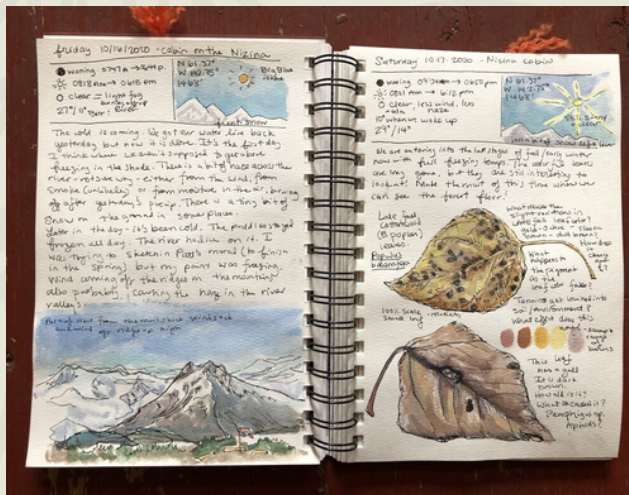
CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

NATURE JOURNALING

Supplies: Unlined notebook (or blank sheets of paper), pencils, crayons or colored pencils, magnifying lenses (optional)

Nature Journaling is all about making connections with the natural world. It sparks curiosity and trains students to study nature. John Muir Laws, author of [How to Teach Nature Journaling](#), describes a nature journal as a "lens that focuses our attention and crystalizes our observations, thoughts, and experiences."

On the websites linked to the right (Resources), you will find a variety of activities and journaling prompts to try with your students. Nature Journaling can be done in the classroom with a natural object brought in from outside but is ideally done outdoors, such as on the playground.



- KEY TERMS -

HABITAT

The place where a living thing makes its home.

NICHE

A role, or job, in an ecosystem.

ECOSYSTEM

The interacting parts of an environment that include living (plants, animals, etc.) and non-living (rocks, water, etc.) things.

ADAPTATION

A trait that makes a species good at living in its environment and more likely to survive, such as by not getting eaten or finding food.

OBSERVATION

A statement based on something that has been noticed through the senses (e.g. sight, hearing, touch).

EVIDENCE

Data (facts or information) that support an explanation.

- RESOURCES -

WEBSITES

[Nature Journaling](#)

[Nature Journaling Activities](#)

[More Journaling Activities](#)

[BEETLES Outdoor Science](#)

[EEI Curriculum](#)

VIDEOS

[Introduction to Nature Journaling](#)

[Nature Journaling - Comparisons](#)

REFERENCES

[John Muir Laws](#)

THE WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY
WIND WOLVES PRESERVE

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