



Activity Packet

A collection of resources aligned to the theme of Nature



Nature is amazing. Whether they're pondering the tiniest insect on the planet or a raging continental storm, humans seem to be mesmerized by nature. Discover a world of learning by focusing on a variety of stories and information all about the natural world.

This packet includes activities for...

- Educators to use in the classroom
- Parents/caregivers to use at home
- Students to use for their own exploration

Observation Chart

- This activity is appropriate for independent work, work in pairs, or small group work.
- Adjust the activity according to the needs of your individual students by assigning specific contributions (e.g., drawing, labeling, coloring, explaining).

Steps

1. Select an item or group of items that you want students to observe. There is a wide variety of natural things that are observable in or from most classrooms: drops of water on a table, a tree at the window, the sky. You may also have access to other things, such as a class pet or a school garden.
2. Talk to the students about the powers of observation and remind them that they will only be recording what they see. Review our Observation Chart with the students and decide on the time intervals, according to your class schedule and availability (i.e., hourly, daily, once a week).
3. Provide students with the chart and allow uninterrupted observation and recording time according to your agreement. Note that students working in pairs or small groups may need to talk and/or share roles (e.g., Observer and Recorder).
4. Once the Observation Charts are complete, talk about inference and encourage your students to make at least one inference from the observations they've made. Then, debrief on the activity by talking about the experience of observation with your students.



Observation Chart

Name: _____ Date: _____

What I Am Watching	What Happens While I Watch	Total Minutes of Observation
The sky	A cloud changes shape and gets bigger A new cloud appears The sun gets covered up	5 minutes

One Inference from My Observations

**An inference is a conclusion based on evidence, knowledge, and experience.*

It will get colder outside today.

Recommended Books



Follow the Moon Home
 Authors: Philippe Cousteau
 and Deborah Hopkinson
 Illustrator: Meilo So
 Grades: K-3



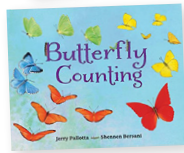
Hike
 Author & Illustrator: Pete Oswald
 Grades: PK-3



Lola Plants a Garden
 Author: Anna McQuinn
 Illustrator: Rosalind Beardshaw
 Grades: PK-K



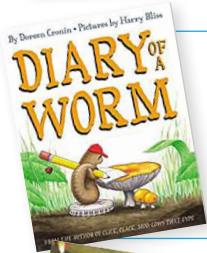
Raindrops Roll
 Author & Photographer:
 April Pulley Sayre
 Grades: PK-3



Butterfly Counting
 Author: Jerry Pallotta
 Illustrator: Shennen Bersani
 Grades: PK-2



Best Foot Forward
 Author & Photographer: Ingo Arndt
 Grades: K-3



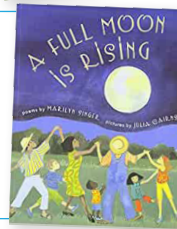
Diary of a Worm
 Author: Doreen Cronin
 Illustrator: Harry Bliss
 Grades: PK-3



Track That Scat
 Author: Lisa Morlock
 Illustrator: Carrie Anne Bradshaw
 Grades: 1-4



Frog Song
 Author: Brenda Z. Guiberson
 Illustrator: Gennady Spirin
 Grades: PK-3



A Full Moon Is Rising
 Author: Marilyn Singer
 Illustrator: Julia Cairns
 Grades: 1-5

Discussion questions for any recommended book listed above:

1. How did nature play a role in this story/text?
2. Was all the nature in this story/text beautiful?
3. How did the characters interact with nature in this story/text?
4. How would the story be different if the natural setting was different?
5. What did this book make you more curious about?

For additional activities for the books listed, please visit www.RIF.org/Literacy-Central/Collections/Nature

Note to Parents/Caregivers

Our class is learning about nature with literacy resources from Reading is Fundamental. Complete this activity with your child to help deepen their understanding of nature.

Observation Outing

- This activity can be as short or long as you like and can be done in any type of weather. If your child is working on maps in class, this activity encourages them to share their learning with you and apply their understanding to another activity.

Steps

1. Get ready for a nature walk. Wherever you live and wherever you decide to walk, you will find nature all around. If you like, you can tailor the nature walk to a particular book that your child has read by looking for items similar to those found in the book. If you want to make it more general, just focus on all the nature around you every day.
2. Use the Observation Chart to record notes about the nature you find on your outing. Assist your child with both noticing nature and recording observations, as appropriate.
3. Bring your chart home and discuss the nature all around you.
4. Identify one or two things on your chart that your child would like to explore more and find a book (at home or from the library, possibly using RIF's book list) that will help your child learn more.
5. Continue to read books about nature and help your child make connections and satisfy their curiosity as they learn new things.



Observation Chart

- Take a nature walk and write down what you see and observe.
- You can focus on something specific (e.g., trees) or keep it general.

What I See	What I Observe About the Object
Ivy growing on a brick wall	The ivy vine is about as tall as me. The color of the ivy is a very dark green. Ivy leaves have five points.

I would like to learn more about: _____

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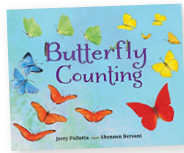
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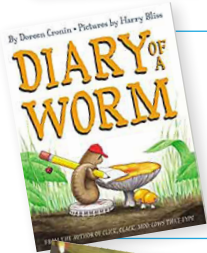
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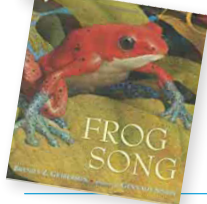
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Garden Drawing

Nature is full of shapes and colors. Let's draw a garden! You might include things like trees, flowers, grass, water, bugs, animals, people, weather, fruits, and vegetables, etc. See samples below.



My Garden: