

Week 1: Nature in your neighborhood



Day 1

Learn about the plants and animals in your neighborhood, play nature in your neighborhood bingo and learn how to camouflage yourself like animals.

Observe and write down all of the plants and animals that are around your home. How many can you count?

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Day 2

Learn about pollinators and the threats facing them. Make seed bombs or learn how to plant a pollinator garden.

In recent years, beekeepers report they're losing on average 30% of all honey-bee colonies each winter — twice the loss considered sustainable. We rely on bees to pollinate 71 of the 100 crops that provide 90% of most of the world's food. Imagine no almonds, fewer apples and strawberries, less alfalfa to feed dairy cows, and the list goes on.

Scientists point to several causes behind the problem, including global warming, habitat loss, parasites and a class of bee-killing insecticides known as neonicotinoids (or neonics). We need to call on our decision makers to declare a nationwide moratorium on the use of bee-killing neonics.

There's also a lot we can do from our own homes to protect bees and pollinators, like planting pollinator gardens.

Draw a picture of the foods in your state that depend on bees:





Day 3

Learn about birding. Learn about birds in your area, make a homemade bird feeder, make binoculars out of toilet paper rolls, and learn how to become a birder!

Watch for birds outside your home. How many different types of birds do you see? Write down the names you know, and research online to find out the names of the birds you don't know.



Day 4

Learn about wildlife habitats and make your own! Read about animal architects and create your own habitat out of found materials in your yard or neighborhood. You can also make a self-portrait out of found materials, like leaves, sticks and flowers.

Use this page to make your own self portrait:





Day 5

Camp out! Set up a tent or make a pillow fort in your yard. Learn about nocturnal animals, like bats, owls, and racoons. Learn about the phases of the moon with oreos. Make s'mores, sing camp songs, and read campfire stories.

Write your own campfire story, incorporating animals that live near your home.
