

Create a Nature Journal

Scientists use their five senses to make observations about the natural world. Choose a plant, flower, animal, or insect to observe. Draw its picture and write down the date and time of your observation, exact location, and weather. Make any notes about your creature's appearance and movements. Write down any questions you might have for future investigation.

Ideas for your Journal:

*What animals can I see or hear? What do they eat? Where might they live? Do I see **evidence** of an animal?*

What plants do I see?

What is the weather? The time of year? Do the plants look different?

Sketch your observations and ideas! Write down questions you want to research later.

Materials:

Paper

Cardboard

Scissors

Glue Stick

Sting

Tape

Envelope

Decorations

NGSS Crosscutting Concepts:

Looking for patterns *How is something changing over time.*

Cause and effect *What happened? Why? How?*

Energy and Matter *What is happening to the energy in a system?*

Structure and Function *Shape determines what something can do.*

Create a Nature Journal

How to:



1. Gather your materials and select a workspace. Use newspaper or some kind of table covering for your workspace. Ask an adult for assistance if you need some help.



5. Decorate your cover. Get creative. Use paint, crayons, markers, stickers, whatever you have available.



2. Cut cardboard to the size of the paper. We used 8 1/2 X 11 copy paper.



6. Glue back of the envelope and press on the inside back cover with the top of the envelope facing in. Tape three sides of the envelope to the back of the cover. You now have a secret pocket to store leaves, etc., that you might find!



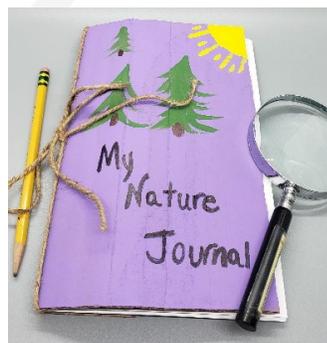
3. Fold paper in half and use it to mark the middle of the cardboard. Draw a line if it is helpful.



7. Fold 8-10 pieces of paper in half, matching corners together. Flatten the paper and place it inside the cover.



4. You may need an adult's help with this part. Using the scissors, score (press down) but do not cut on the line you marked. Use the scored line to bend the cardboard and you have the cover for your nature journal.



8. Using about 2 feet of string, wrap around the center of the journal and tie. Your journal is complete.