

Stall Street Journal



The Great Outdoors: Become an Expert Explorer

Whether you are going on a hike, to the park or into the back yard, nature is full of mysteries just waiting to be discovered!

Science Fun Kit

- Plant, Bird, Rock, Animal Tracks or Wildlife Identification Book
- Magnifying Glass
- Binoculars
- Small net
- Gloves
- Ruler
- Bug jar - Be sure to return whatever you find to inspect back to where you found it!
- Paper bags to keep your treasures (Remember, you can't take plants, flowers or artifacts from parks - it's the law)
- Paper and pencil to record your findings

Tracking 101

- Look for signs of wildlife. Is there a path in the weeds beaten down by deer?
- Can you find any animal footprints? Maybe you can identify the animal with an animal track identification book or a website like <http://www.bear-tracker.com>
- Can you find ants carrying food? Can you find any animal, bird or insect homes hidden in trees or in the dirt?
- Stop and listen - what animals, birds and insects can you hear? What direction are they coming from? Can you distinguish bird sounds made from different kinds of birds?

Explorer Challenges

- Count the colors in rocks you see. Which one had the most colors?
- A true explorer looks all around. Play "I Spy Below" and "I Spy Above".
- Play "Alphabet I Spy" - can you find something that starts with an "a"? Then a "b"? Try it all the way to the end of the alphabet.
- Find 3 different kinds of butterflies.
- Distinguish 5 different wildlife sounds.

Keep a wildlife journal

Draw or take pictures of different wildflowers, plants and animals you see. Write about them and learn their names. Catalogue insects, wildflowers, animals, animal tracks and anything new you learned about nature.

Rubbings

Find objects that are rough or feel interesting. Hold a piece of paper over it, and use the side of a crayon to rub over the object and make an impression of its texture.