

SCIENCE IN THE WILD

Tonight's Homework - NATURE

It's no secret – overall, children (and adults for that matter) are spending less time outdoors in natural environments. Having kids start a nature journal is an engaging and fun way to help them start noticing details, behaviors, and interactions of the living organisms with nonliving factors.

Students can use these pages alone, or combine them with the activities found in the [Science in the Wild Series](#) from NGS to create a journal that will keep a record of the weather, lunar phases, and their observations of small and large changes going on all around them throughout the year.

How to Use the Science in the Wild Nature Journal

1. Choose a cover and back page for them to glue onto a notebook. Print in color or have them color with markers or crayons.
2. Print an identification sheet to label their name/class and have students glue it to the notebook's inside cover.
3. If you would like students to keep track of their pages, print a Table of Contents and have students glue on the first few pages of their notebook.
4. Field guides are also available to glue in the back of the notebook for students to use as a reference when out in the field. They include:
 - Parts of a leaf/tree and leaf shapes
 - Parts of a seed/flower/plant
 - Plants to avoid
 - Animal Tracks
 - Rock Characteristics

Adding Pages:

1. Each month students can add the Lunar Cycle, Weather Tracker and Constellation page to keep track of the monthly weather and night sky. A page for daily weather reports is also included.
2. Observation pages for plants, birds, trees/shrubs, insects, mammals and rocks can be added when those topics are the focus of the time spent outside.
3. Outdoor Explorer activities can be assigned at random throughout the seasons. Activities currently focus on each season, as well as arthropods, steam activities and math-related science and nature activities.

SCIENCE IN THE WILD

The Science in the Wild Nature Journal includes:

Feature	Page #
Insect Front/Back Cover	3-4
Forest Front/Back Cover	5-6
Bird Front/Back Cover	7-8
Flowers and Insect Front/Back Cover	9-10
Shells Front/Back Cover	11-12
Identification page options	13-14
Field Guide - Parts of a leaf/tree and leaf shapes	15
Field Guide - Parts of a seed/flower/plant	16
Field Guide - Plants to avoid	17
Field Guide – Animal Tracks	18
Field Guide – Rock Characteristics	19
Table of Content (blank) options	20-21
Observation Sheets – Trees and Shrubs	22
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Daily Weather Tracker	30
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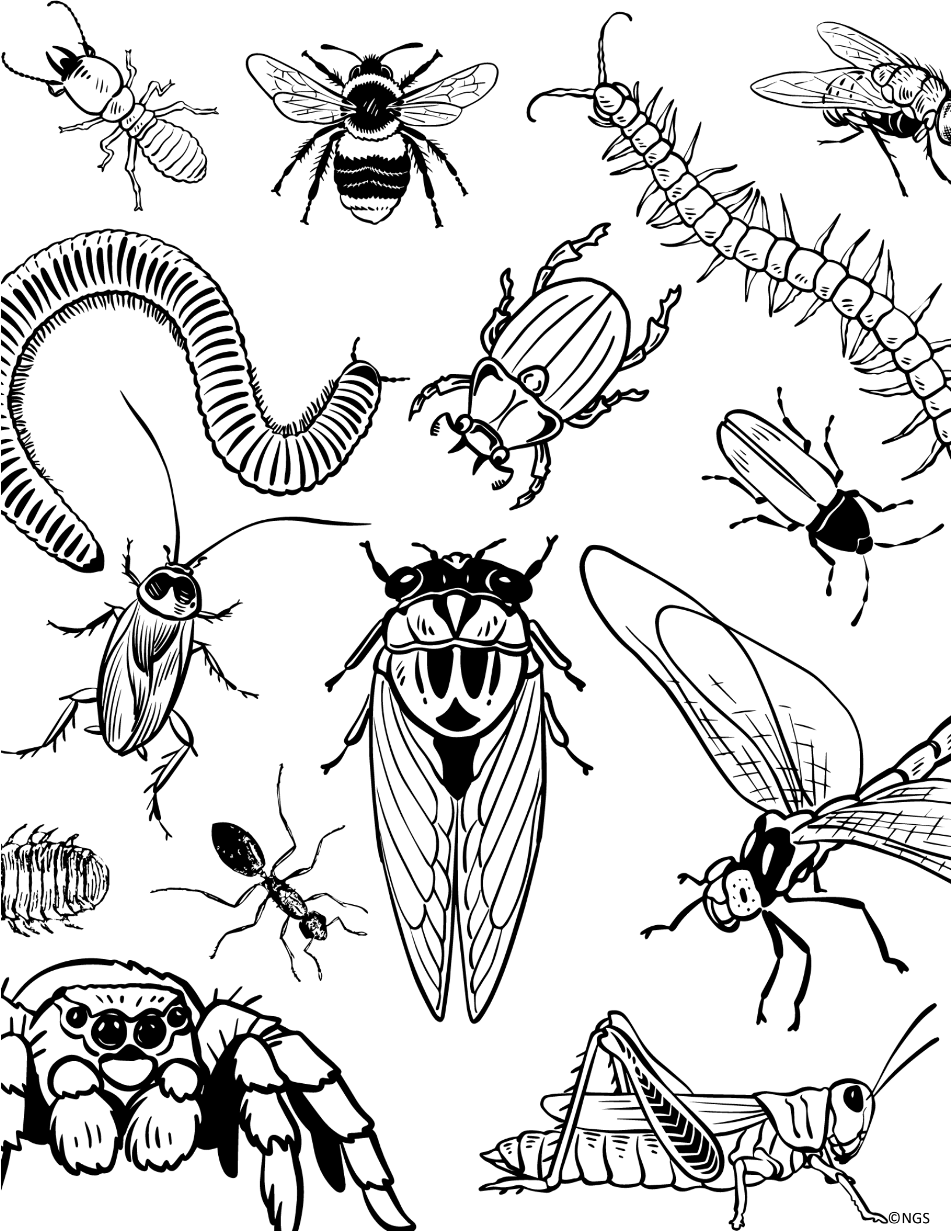


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Nature Journal



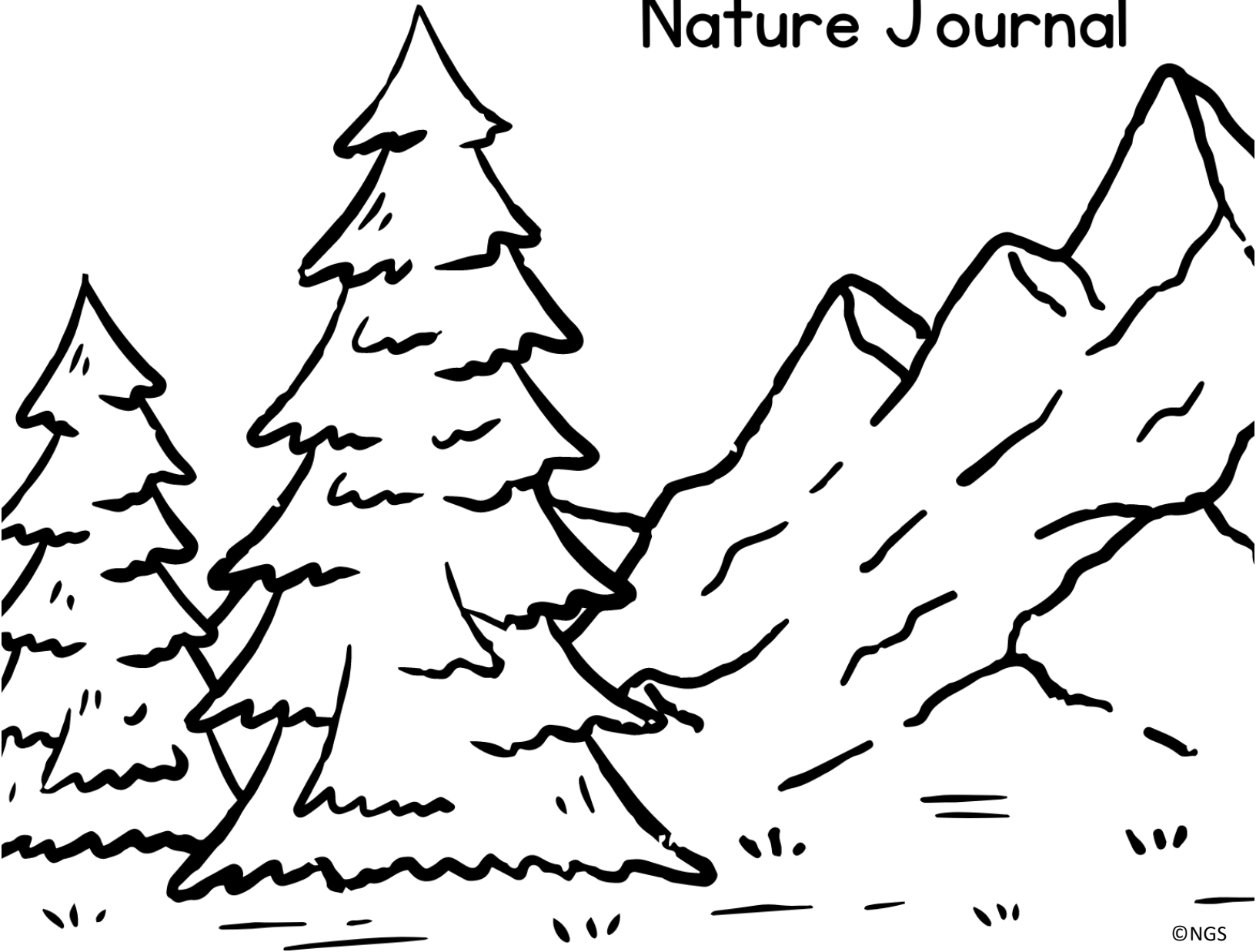




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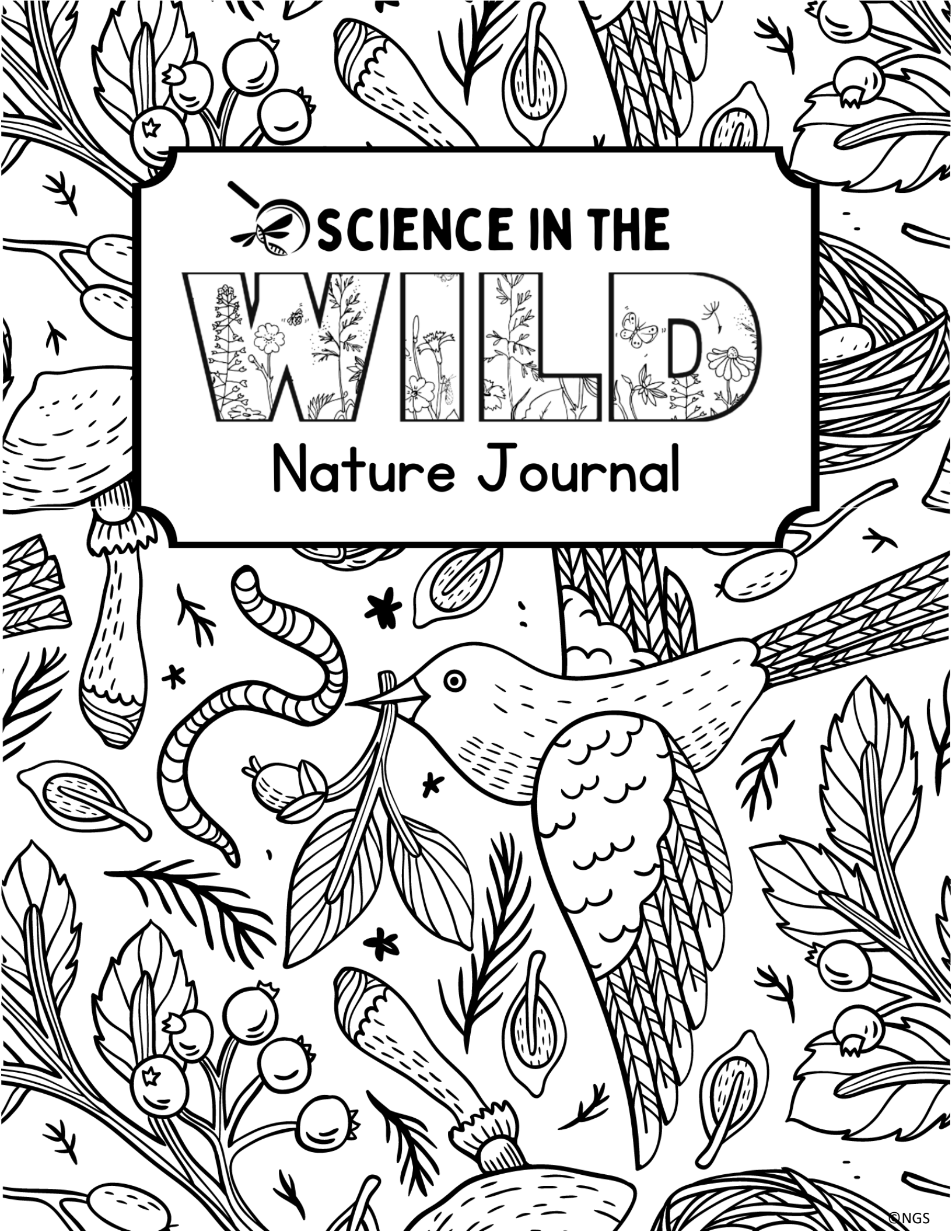




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Nature Journal



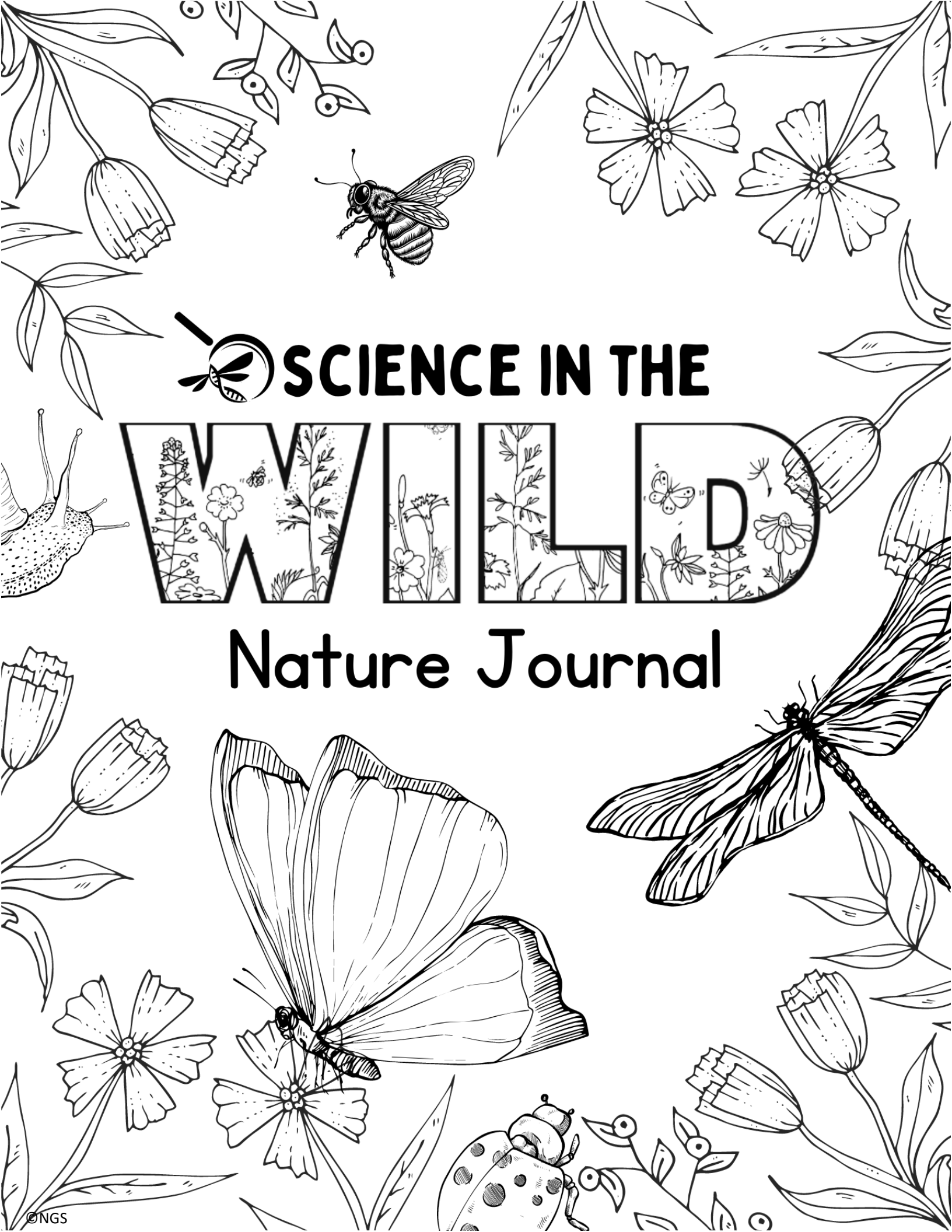




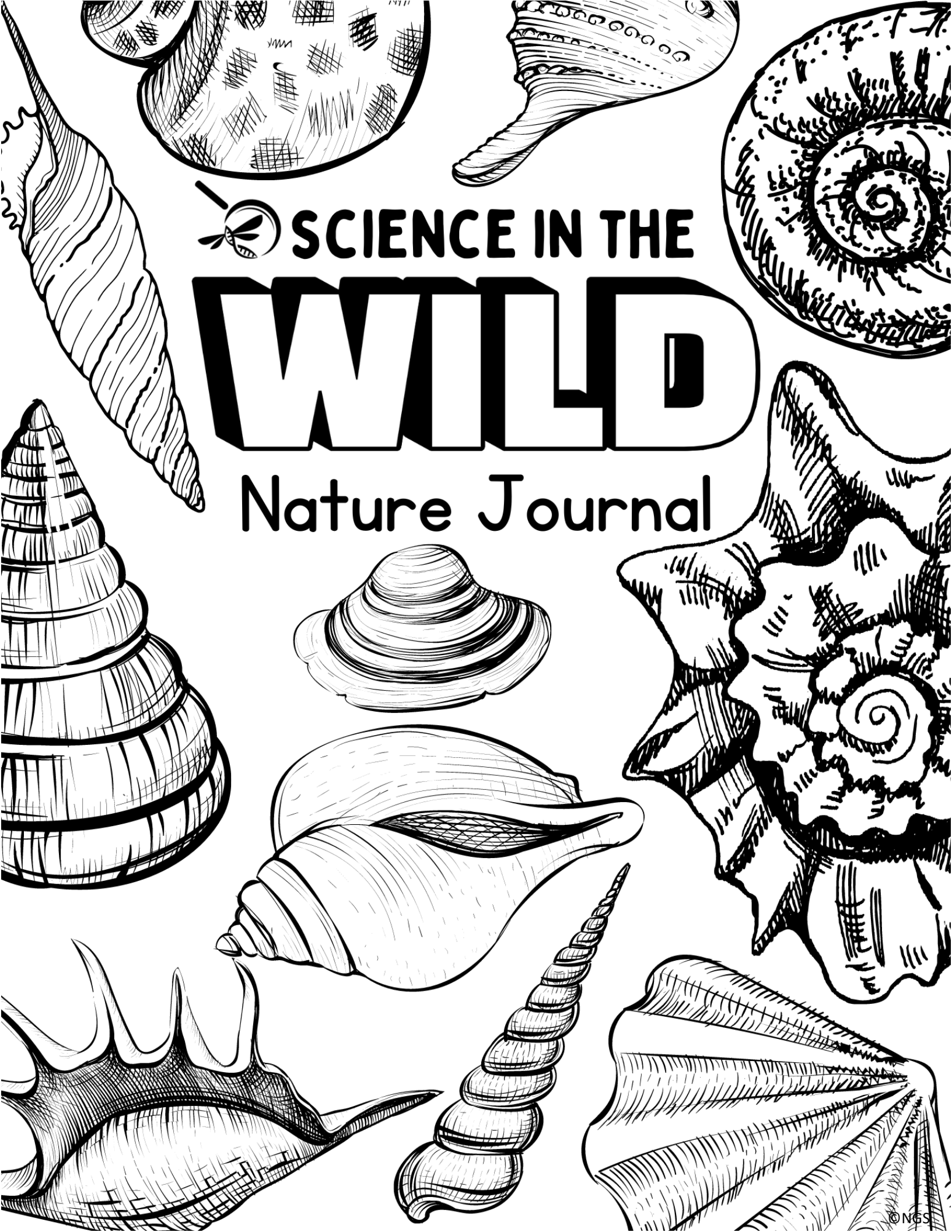
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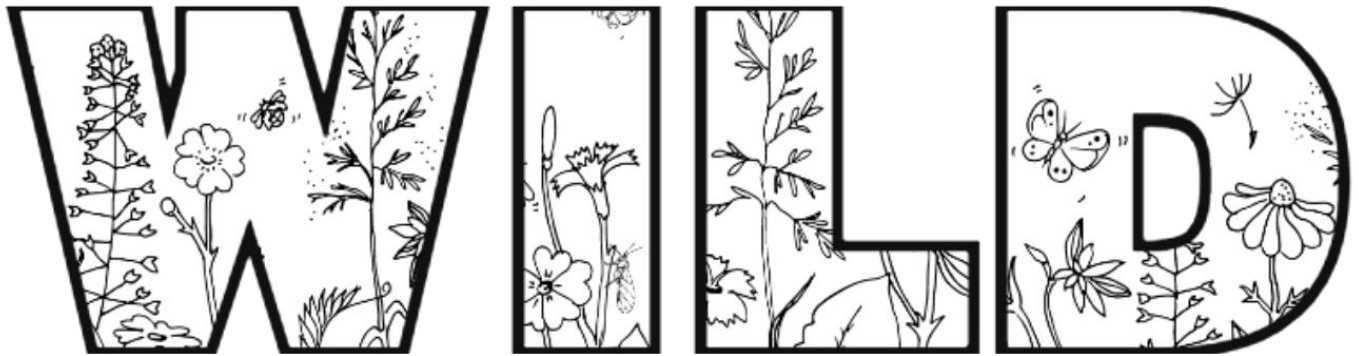
WILD

Nature Journal





SCIENCE IN THE



Nature Journal

Belongs to: _____

Teacher: _____

Room #: _____



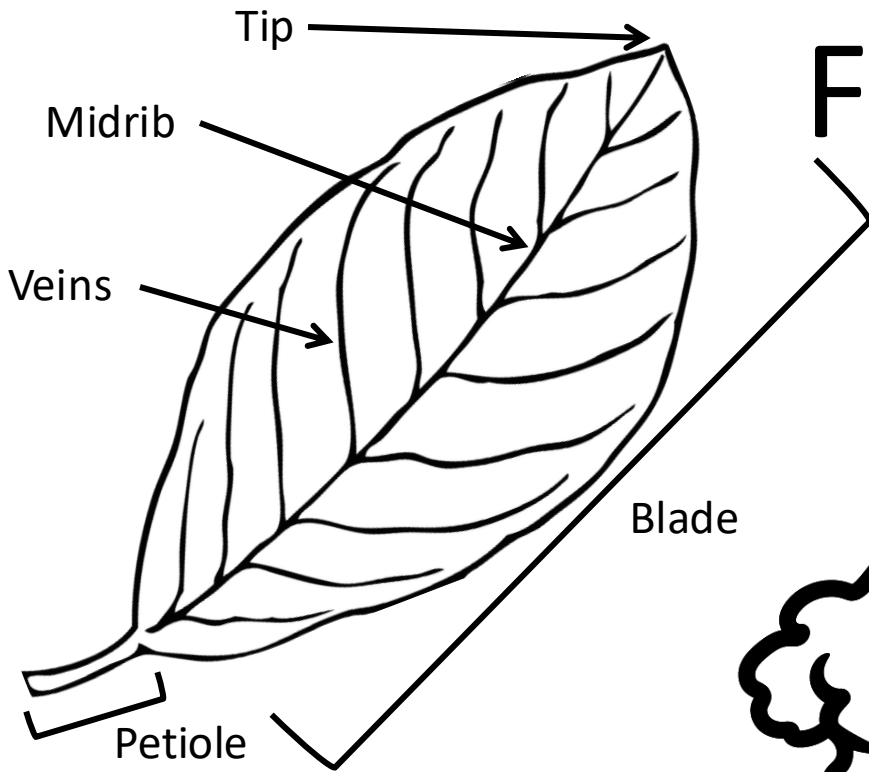
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WILD

Nature Journal

Belongs to: _____

Field Guide



Parts of a Leaf



Parts of a Tree



Oval



Lobed

Leaf Shapes



Rounded



Triangular

Underground roots

Field Guide

Parts of a Plant

Terminal bud →

Node →

Internode

Stem →

Axillary bud →

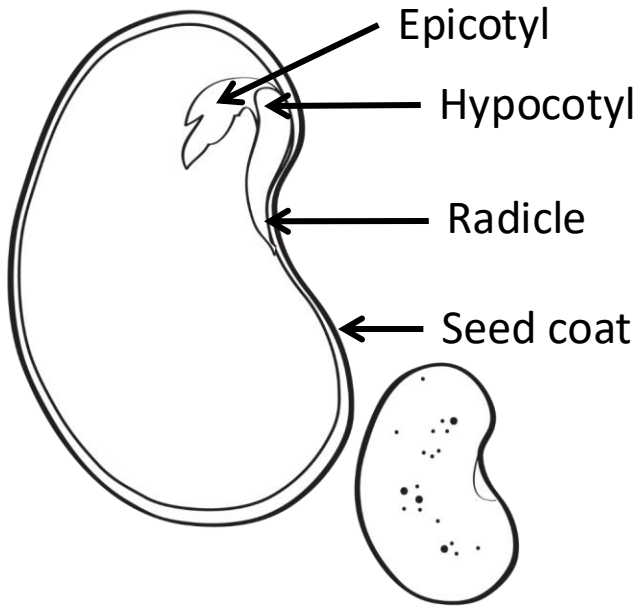
Petiole

Blade

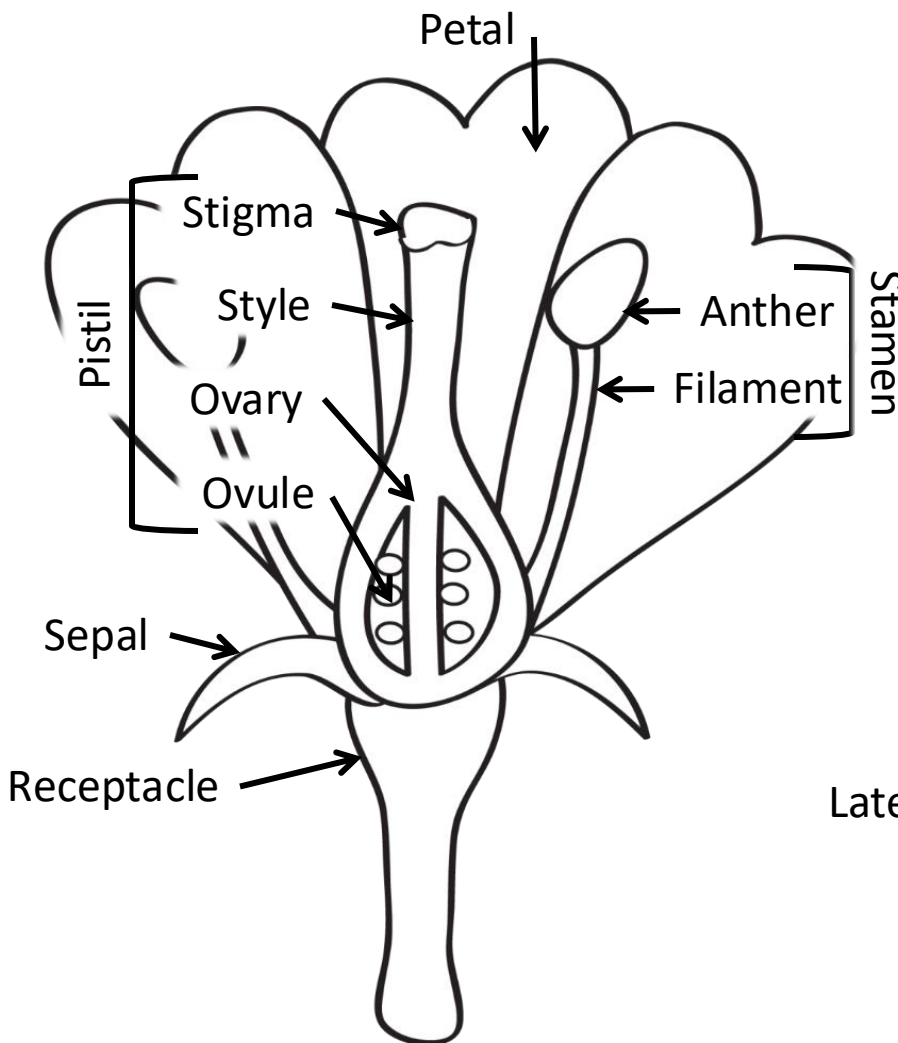
Taproot →

Lateral root →

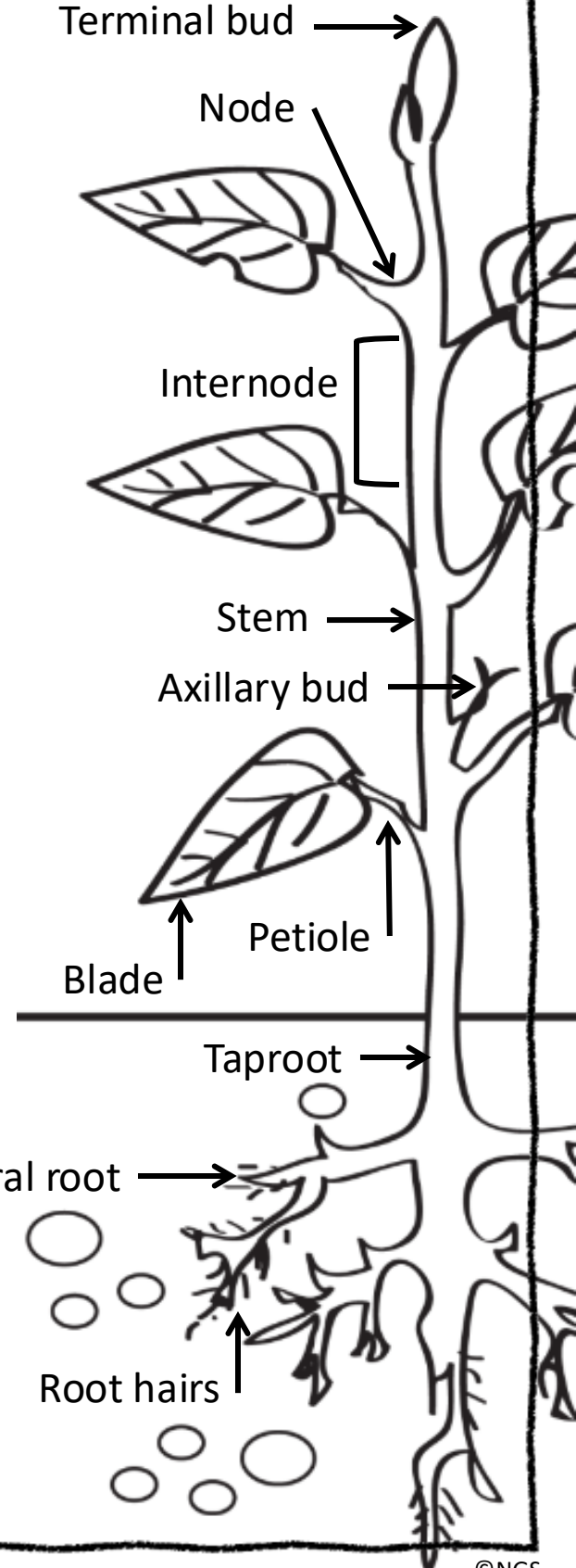
Root hairs



Parts of a Seed

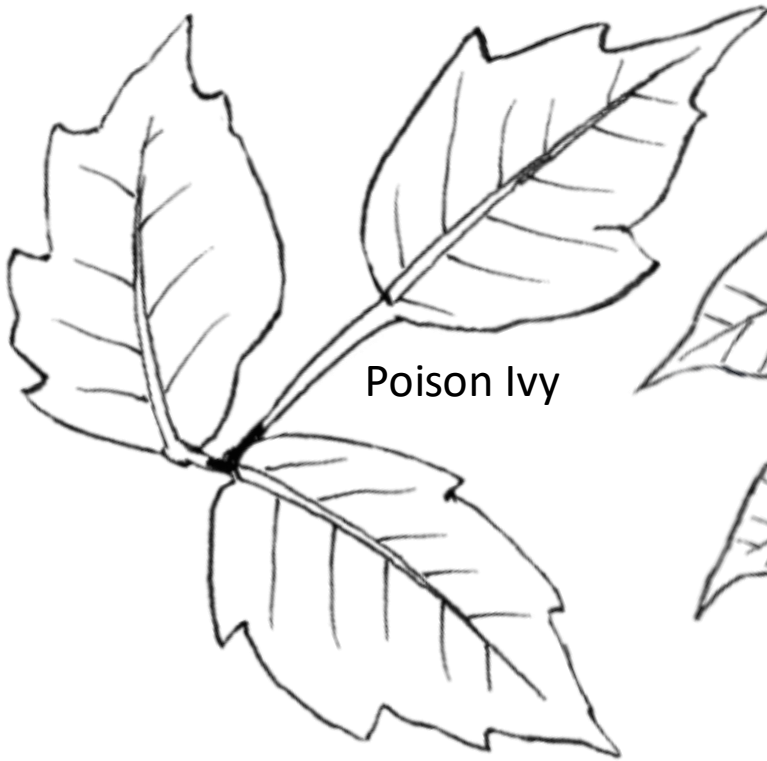


Parts of a Flower



Field Guide

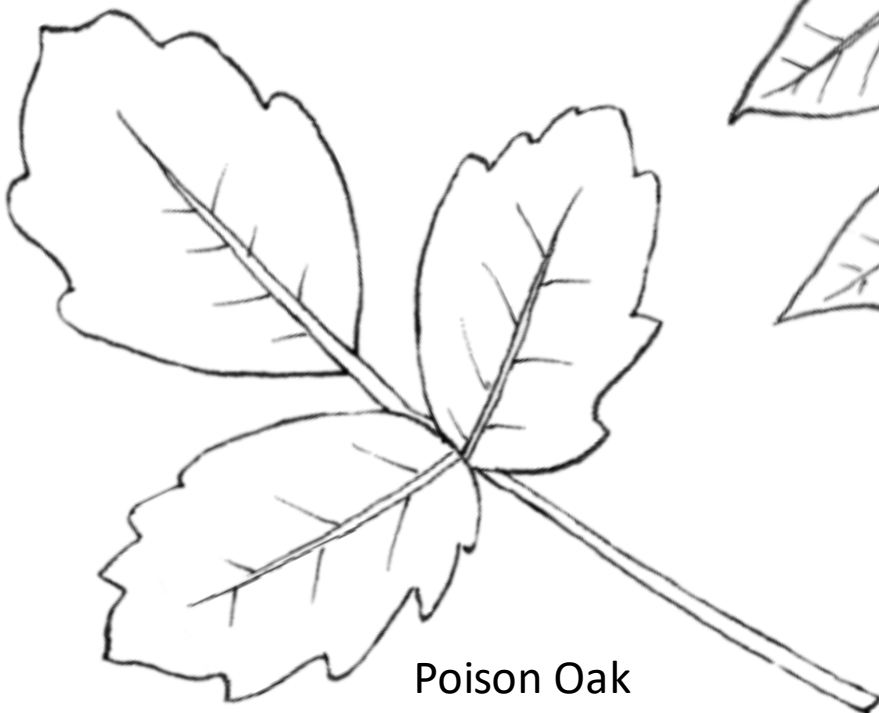
Plants to Avoid



Poison Ivy



Poison Sumac



Poison Oak

Field Guide

Animal Tracks



Racoon



Skunk



Beaver



Porcupine



Opossum



Black bear



Fox



Turkey



Cougar



Coyote



Deer



Otter



Dog



Duck



Hare



Rabbit



Cat



Crow



Squirrel

Field Guide

Rock Characteristics











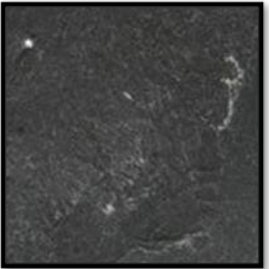
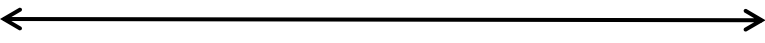
Grain Size				
	Fine Grain	Coarse Grain	No Visible Grain	
Grain Pattern				
	Foliated (banded)		Non-Foliated (non-banded)	
Grain Shape				
	Rounded Grain	Jagged Grain		
Color				
	Light			Dark

Table of Contents

Date	Topic	Page(s)



Table of Contents

Date	Topic	Page(s)



Date: / /

Trees and Shrubs



Bark

Flower/seed/cone

Name: _____

Type: _____

Leaves/needles on branch



Individual leaf/needle

Location: _____

Observations: _____

Facts: _____



Birds

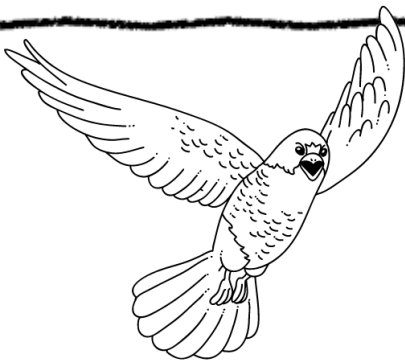
Date: / /

Name: _____

Location: _____

Observations: _____

Facts: _____



Date: / /

Name: _____

Location: _____

Observations: _____

Facts: _____

Flowers



Date: / /

Name: _____

Location: _____

Observations: _____

Facts: _____

Date: / /

Name: _____

Location: _____

Observations: _____

Facts: _____



Insects

Name: _____

Location: _____

Observations: _____

Facts: _____

Date: / /

Name: _____

Location: _____

Observations: _____

Facts: _____

Date: / /

Name: _____

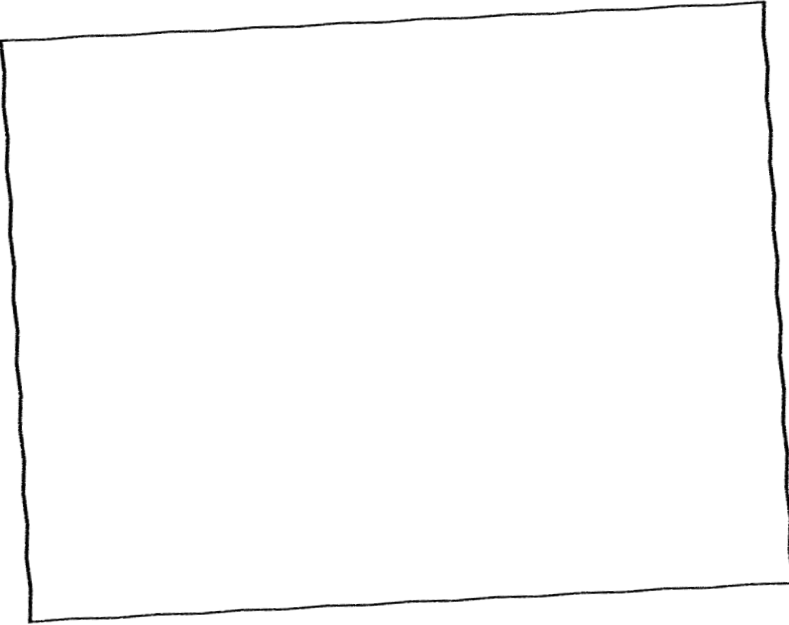
Location: _____

Observations: _____

Facts: _____

Date: / /

Mammals



Date: / /

Name: _____

Location: _____

Observations: _____

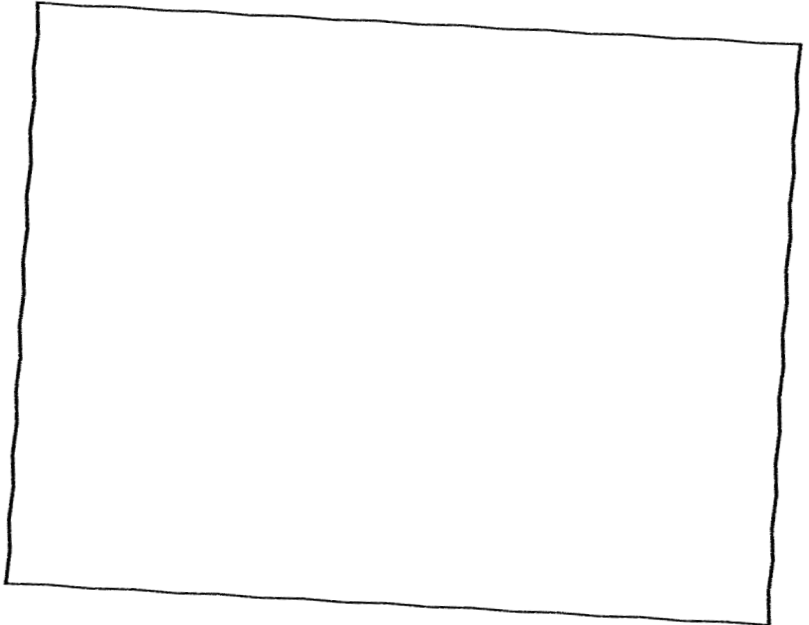
Facts: _____



Date: / /

Name: _____

Location: _____



Observations: _____

Facts: _____

Amphibians

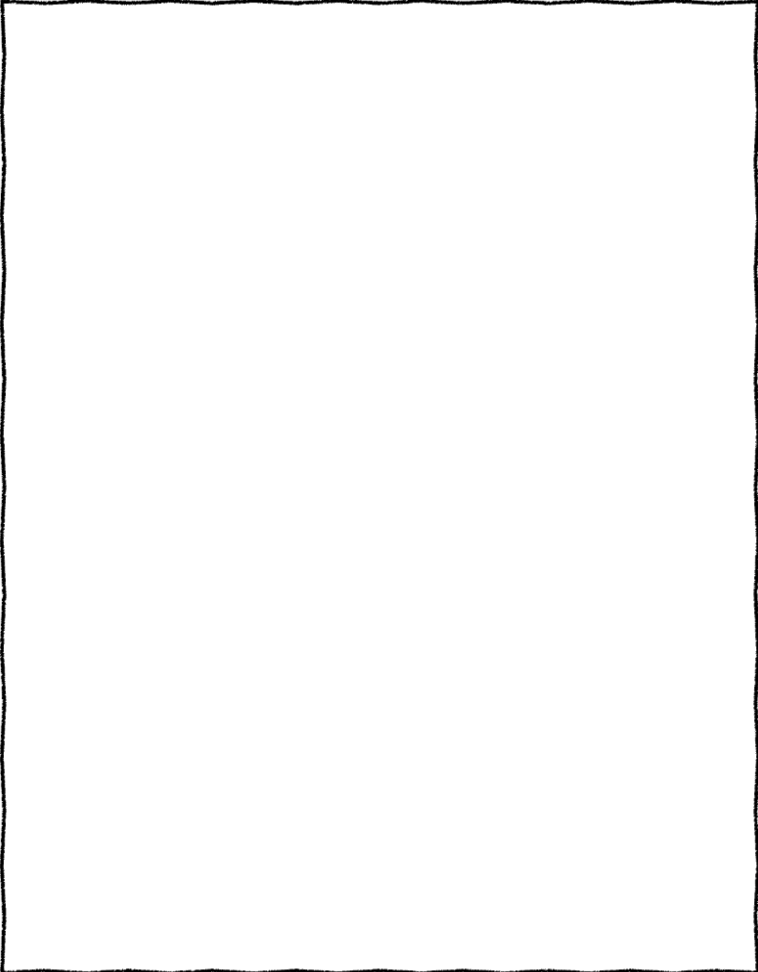
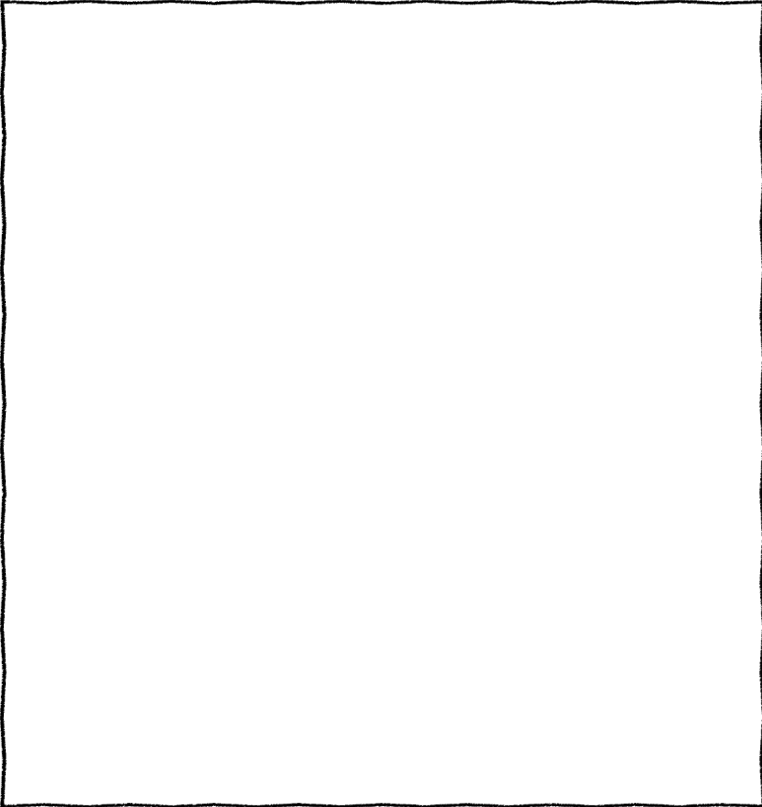
Date: / /

Name: _____

Location: _____

Observations: _____

Facts: _____



Date: / /

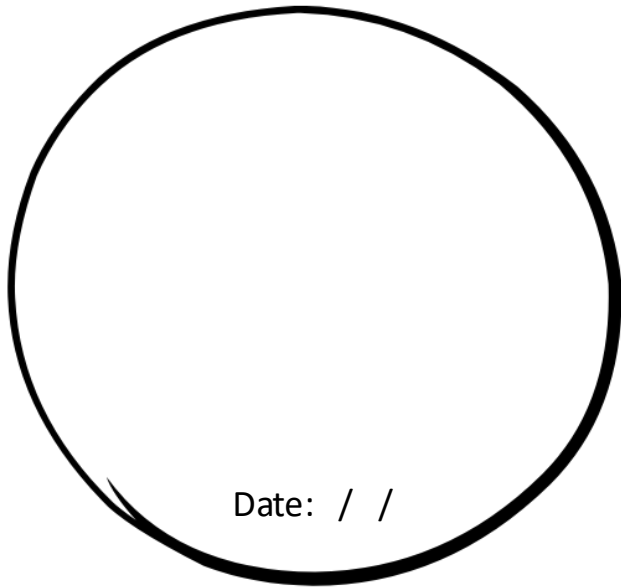
Name: _____

Location: _____

Observations: _____

Facts: _____

Rocks and Minerals



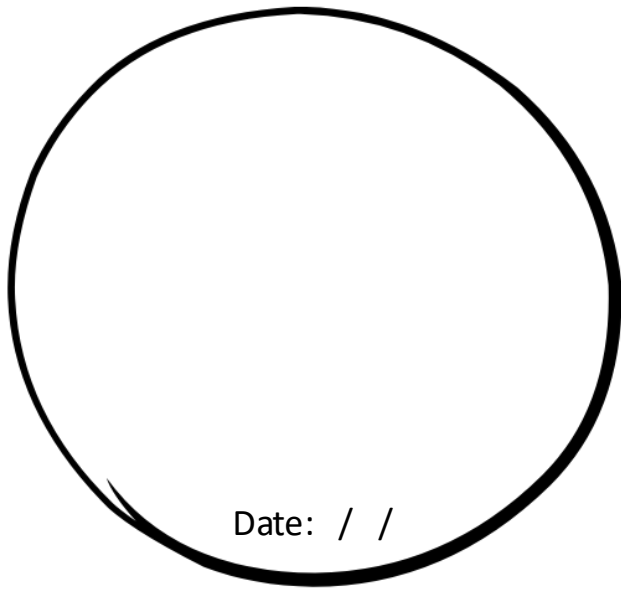
Date: / /

Name: _____

Location: _____

Characteristics: _____

Facts: _____



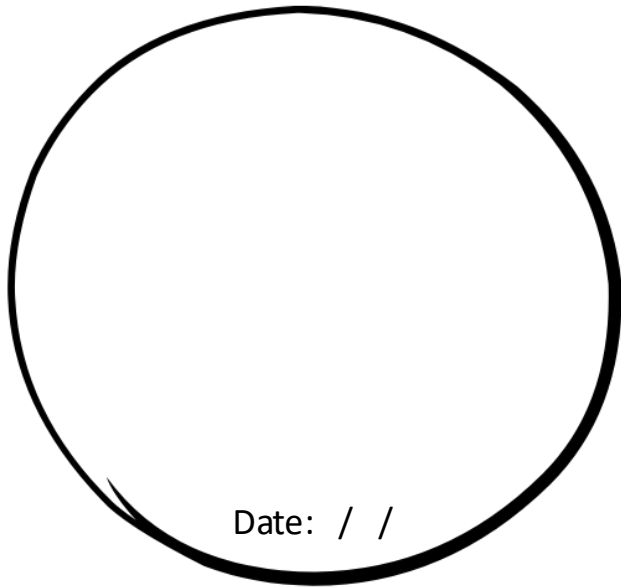
Date: / /

Name: _____

Location: _____

Characteristics : _____

Facts: _____



Date: / /

Name: _____

Location: _____

Characteristics : _____

Facts: _____

Weather Tracker

Month _____

Sketch the daily weather in the circle using the icons in the legend below.

75° F

Under the circle write in the daily temperature. Label using °C or °F

Sunny	Partly Sunny	Cloudy	Rainy	Lightning	Wind	Snow	Gray Clouds	Dark Sky	Rainbow


Weather Tracker

Date: _____


Time: _____ : _____

Winter	Spring
Summer	Fall

Air Pressure Reading

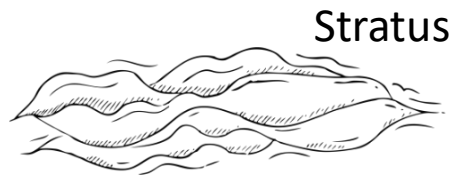


_____ mb



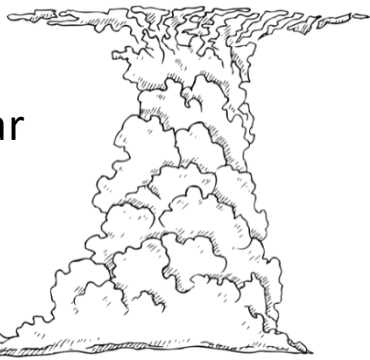
Millibar

Cloud Coverage

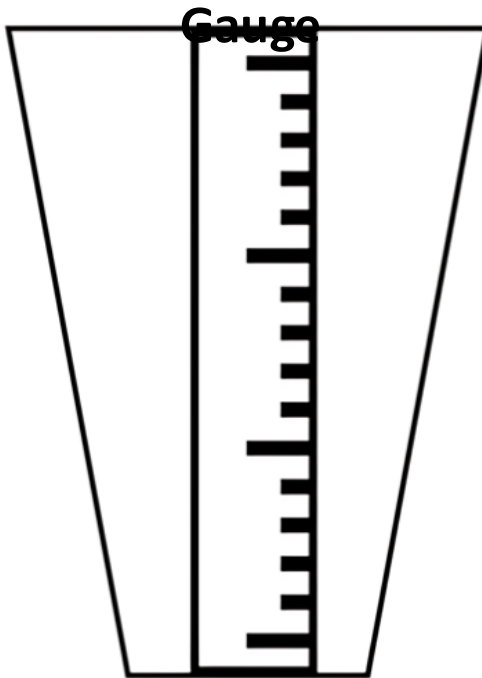


Cumulonimbus

Clear



Precipitation Gauge

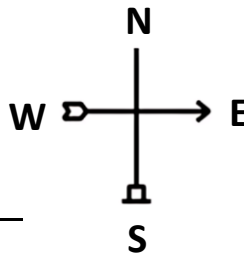


Temperature

°C °F



Wind
Direction



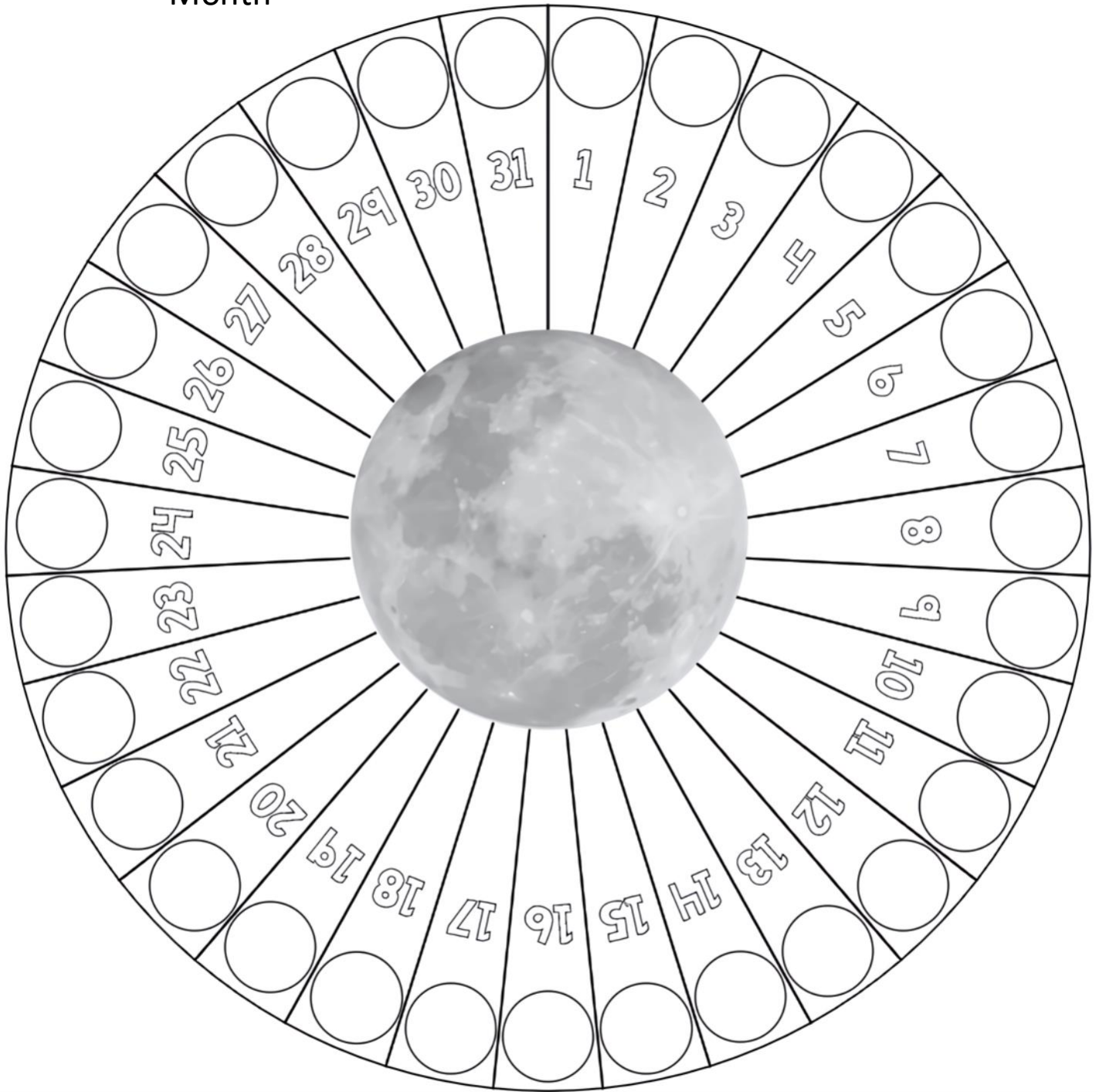
Wind Speed: _____

My prediction for tomorrow's forecast: _____

My Observations: _____

Lunar Cycle

Month _____



New	Waxing Crescent	Waxing Quarter	Waxing Gibbous	Full	Waning Gibbous	Waning Quarter	Waning Crescent

Constellations











Month _____

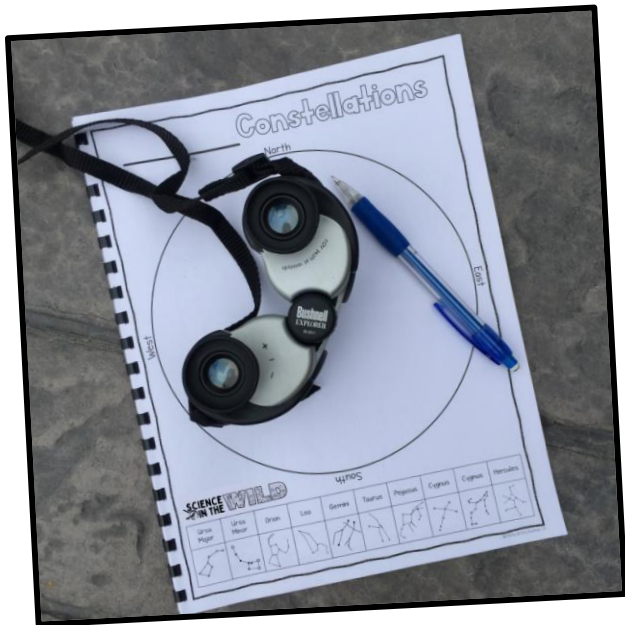
North

West

East

South

Ursa Major	Ursa Minor	Orion	Leo	Gemini	Taurus	Pegasus	Cygnus	Cygnus	Hercules
									



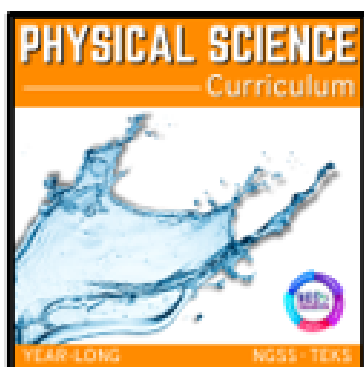
Encourage your students to step outside, explore, and connect with the natural world! Our **Science in the Wild Nature Journal** is the perfect tool to help young scientists observe, question, and document the environment around them.

With guided pages for tracking weather, lunar phases, and local ecosystems, this journal makes it easy to foster curiosity and environmental awareness — one observation at a time!

Students can use these pages alone or combine them with the activities found in the **Outdoor Explorer Science and Nature Series** found [here](#).

Explore our comprehensive Middle School Science Curriculum for **Life Science**, **Physical Science**, and **Earth Science** by clicking below!

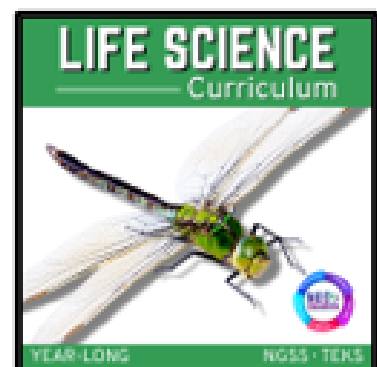
[Physical Science](#)



[Earth Science](#)



[Life Science](#)





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