

Nature Near You



Journal Prompt:



What is the first feeling you express when you enter nature?

Animal of the Week: Burrowing Owl



These animals are known to nest in underground burrows that are decorated with droppings of their favourite prey such as deer or cattle. This attracts dung beetles which the owl can eat, and also hides the owl's smell from nearby predators. These creatures can be found in the Okanagan area and Kamloops but are listed as one of the three endangered animals under the BC Wildlife Act.

At Home Activity: Mason Jar Lantern

What you need:

- Mason jar
- white school glue
- food colouring
- paint brushes
- tea lights

How to:

1. Ensure your jar is clean and all residue from labels is wiped off.
2. Pour 1-2 tablespoons of glue on a plate and add a few drops of food colouring. Repeat as many times for more colours.
3. Paint your first coat on the lantern and wait for it to completely dry before coating with 2nd coat. If needed, you can paint up to 3 coats.
4. Add your candles and enjoy!

Other Resources:

Burrowing owl conservation: Learn more about what is currently being done to save our burrowing owl population in BC. www.burrowingowlbc.org/index.php/our-activities

De-stress with nature's spa remedies: Find ways you can relax and feel more replenished with hydrotherapy, meditation, sound and solar therapy, and more in this article! www.hellobc.com/stories/psst-this-spa-is-free/?source=igodigital

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Journal Prompt:

What can we do better to protect our natural world?

Animal of the Week: Red Squirrel



Red squirrels are one of the native squirrel species in British Columbia. They eat a variety of seeds, nuts, berries, and leaves, which they gather and store for later. Their food-gathering habits help spread plant seeds so new plants can grow and thrive. These creatures are skillful foragers, and are even known to hang fungi over tree branches in the fall to dry so their food lasts longer during the winter!

At Home Activity: 5-Day Sprouts

What you need:

- Plastic zip top bag
- A paper towel
- A few bean seeds (any kind)

How to:

1. Take your paper towel and fold it so it will fit inside your plastic zip top bag. Once your paper towel is folded, wet it and place it into the bag.
2. Grab 3-4 beans and place them in the bag on top of the wet paper towel.
3. Put your plastic bag near a window, and in about 5 days your bean should germinate and begin to sprout!

Other Resources:

Indoor & Outdoor Scavenger Hunt: Inside out fun! Check out this scavenger hunt that will lead you to find interesting things both in and out of your home. <https://buff.ly/2Aix3M0>

Learn about Soil Erosion with this Experiment: Understand the importance of vegetation covering soil with this hands-on science experiment! <https://www.lifeisagarden.co.za/soil-erosion-experiment/#.U3uAtVhdVmc>

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Journal Prompt:

What does summer look like, feel like, and sound like?



Animal of the Week: Garter Snake



Garter Snakes are a type of snake that is found all across Canada. They can live in any environment except for water, so you may find these creatures in marshes, fields, forests, and more. These snakes hibernate in burrows, holes, and under rocks for almost 6 months a year, and only emerge in the spring. Female garter snakes can have up to 80 baby snakes in a single litter!

At Home Activity: Time Capsule

What you need: How to:

- Container (jar, box, etc.)
 - Items, photos, and other things to put inside.
1. Find a container that you can bury or put in a safe place.
 2. Gather your items. These can be toys, pictures, drawings, or anything you want your future self to see! Make sure they fit in the container you've chosen.
 3. Place your items in the container and bury it in your backyard, or place it in a safe place you'll remember to open in 5, 10, or more years!

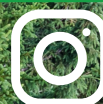
Other Resources:

Aquatic Learning at Home: Ever wanted to learn more about marine biology? Monterey Bay Aquarium has several online courses and activities for youth of all ages:

<https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/for-educators/learning-at-home>

Edible Plants for Play and Learning: Learn the importance of edible landscaping for youth:

<https://naturalearning.org/edible-plants-for-play-and-learning/>



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Journal Prompt:

Animal of the Week: Red Winged Blackbird



The Red Winged Blackbird lives in saltwater marshes and watercourse areas, as well as in fields and meadows. The males have unmistakable red and yellow shoulder badges, which they use to attract the female birds. Male Red Winged Blackbirds are known to do anything for attention from females, from sitting on high perches to belting out their unique song.

At Home Activity: Bug Light Trap

Other Resources:

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Journal Prompt:

What is your favorite time of day to be outside, and why?

Animal of the Week: White-Tailed Deer



The White-tailed Deer is one of the most common large mammals in North America. They can be found in meadows and forests as they forage for green plants, nuts, and wood vegetation. The deer's unique white tail is used as a signal to warn its fawn and other deer of predators. The animals are also skilled jumpers, and can make horizontal jumps up to nine metres long!

At Home Activity: Recycled Bird Feeder

What you need:

- Recycled paper towel roll or toilet paper roll
- bird seed
- peanut butter
- string

How to:

1. Pour your birdseed into a shallow container that your recycled paper roll can fit in.
2. Coat the exterior of your paper roll in peanut butter.
3. Roll your coated roll into the birdseed.
4. String a loop through the paper towel roll and tie it.
5. Hang your DIY bird feeder on a tree outside to feed the birds!

Other Resources:

Spot Whales in BC: Find out the best places in BC to spot whales, and the times of year to see them: <https://www.hellobc.com/stories/top-5-places-to-spot-whales-in-bc/?source=igodigital>

How do Plants Absorb Water?: A simple celery experiment to show kids capillary action in plants: <https://www.kiwico.com/diy/Science-Projects-for-Kids/3/project/Celery-Experiment/571>

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Journal Prompt:

What is your favorite season, and why?

Animal of the Week: Black Bear



Black bears are one of the three types of bears native to North America. These bears are extremely skilled climbers, and have long, retractable claws that help them scale trees and terrain. Black bears have a varied diet, and will eat almost anything- from berries and nuts, to insects like ants, to small mammals and birds.

At Home Activity: DIY Terrarium

Other Resources: