

# Nature Near You



## Journal Prompt:

What does being in nature look like to you?



## Animal of the Month: Wood Duck



The wood duck is a very colourful species of duck found in south-western British Columbia. Wood ducks have small talons at the ends of their feet that allow them to perch on tree branches, where they often nest in cavities in the trees to stay safe from predators. Populations were decreasing rapidly in the 19th century because of over-hunting and habitat loss, but conservation efforts such as nest boxes have brought back populations!

## At Home Activity: Hammered Nature Art

What you need:

- Paper/cardstock
- Flowers and leaves
- Towel
- Wax paper
- Hammer, rubber mallet, or rock

How to:

1. Gather fallen leaves and flowers of different colours
2. Arrange the plant pieces on a sheet of paper
3. Cover the arrangement with wax paper
4. Grab your hammer and start pounding away at the plants until they're smashed to your liking
5. Pull back the wax paper gently and remove the plant pieces to see the prints left on the paper, and let it dry outside in the sun!

## Other Resources:

**Nature Vancouver:** A local organization for passionate naturalists and conservationists to explore Vancouver's natural areas and learn together. <https://naturevancouver.ca>

**BC Parks:** Learn all about BC's different parks, how to be responsible while visiting, and what you can do to help! <https://bcparks.ca/discover/>