

Nature Walk

Best for Ages

All ages

Workspace

Any outdoor space

Is electricity required?

No

Description

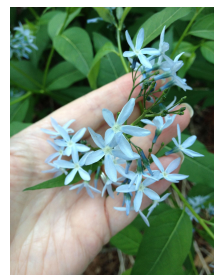
Explore the great outdoors! Head outside to discover your backyard, garden or porch - you never know what you may find in the most familiar places!

Materials

- Shoes
- Sunscreen
- Camera (optional)
- Paper and Writing/Drawing Utensil

What to Do

1. Put on your shoes and sunscreen. Grab your paper and writing utensil. Now step outside into your outdoor area.
2. Take a look around the space and describe what you see. Use descriptive words to illustrate what you are noticing.
3. Explore the space more closely and take time to wander at your own pace.
4. Ask more questions like, "What do you see in the backyard that you haven't seen before?" and "Can you spot any plants or animals?".
5. Take it a step further by collecting natural materials and take photographs of the area. Only collect materials if you have adult permission and it's not a dangerous plant like poison ivy!
6. Journal about your discoveries. Sketches are a great way to capture what you saw on your nature walk.



Concepts Explored

- Animal and Plant Names
- Outdoor Discovery

Nature Walk

Troubleshooting Tips

- Is it raining or cold outside? Bundle up or use an umbrella before heading outdoors.
- Don't have a backyard? Use whatever outdoor space you have available, whether it's outside your apartment or the park across the street.
- If you don't see any animals or plants right away, look closer and listen carefully, you never know what you may find!



How can you use your collected material in a creative way?

What are the names some of the plants and animals you discovered?

What surprised you about your nature walk?

What is Happening?

- Wildlife is all around us even when we don't see it at first. **Animals and plants** are important parts of our day-to-day lives and knowing the different types is a useful skill. Try **collecting** different types of plants from your backyard and **documenting** it in your journal.
- **Outdoor discovery** is not only fun, but educational as well. Nature surrounds us and we can use our observational skills to notice things we haven't before. Different types of **ecosystems** are everywhere. After exploring, take time to research the plants and animals you discovered to learn about the fascinating things you found outdoors.

Taking it Forward

Connecting this activity to the real world:

Can you find anything in your house that relates to what you found outside?

If you like this activity, think about:

Where are other places you can take a nature walk? Will that change what you see?

Want to learn more about nature?

Check out National Geographic's Online Resource Library at:
www.nationalgeographic.org/topics/ecosystems