

Outdoor Activities!



**THERE ARE LOTS OF ANIMALS THAT LIVE IN YOUR OWN YARD
NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO OBSERVE THEM & BECOME A NATURE DETECTIVE!**

You will be going outside to see "who has been using your yard?"
A nature detective looks for clues left behind by animals. An important part of being a detective is looking for clues, approaching quietly and slowly and try and observe the whole scene-look up, look down, look all around! use your eyes, your ears and sense of smell might be handy as well!

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- ✓ Magnifying glass
- ✓ Notebook and Pen/Pencil
- ✓ Camera & Binoculars
- ✓ Evidence Collection Container
- ✓ Cool Detective Outfit
- ✓ Tweezers & Gloves

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

- 🔍 Holes in the Ground
- 🔍 Nests in the trees
- 🔍 Animal tracks & Footprints
- 🔍 Chewed on pinecones or nuts
- 🔍 Feathers or Fur
- 🔍 Animal poop (gross!)

Have your parents help you put together your kit, and record your findings
Good Luck! We have lots of animal visitors too, let us know what you find!

ANT Experiment:



Do ants like and dislike different foods and smells?

What you will need: paper plate, bread crumbs, peanut butter (or nutfree alternative), jelly, mint, any herbs you have available

- > --- On a paper plate, set out a pile of tiny ant-size breadcrumbs, a small dab of peanut butter, and a small dab of jelly. Set the piles slightly apart from each other on the plate.
- > --- Go outside and find an ants colony and place plate on the ground nearby
- > --- Find a place near the colony that you can observe the ants. Keep your feet off the ground. and Watch. Time how long it takes until the first ant finds the food.
- > ---What happens after the first ant shows up? Observe how many ants eat each type of food. Do they prefer peanut butter, jelly, or bread?
- > --- Go outside to your yard and see if you can find some mint growing naturally (they all have square stems and have the distinctive smell) or you may have some in your garden.
- > --- Go back to your ant farm and see if you you can find some ants working together. Lay the mint leaves in a circle around the ants. What do the ants do? remove the mint, What happens now?

You can experiment with other species too! Journal your findings in your detective kit!



Homemade Bird Feeder



What You will Need: Pine Cones, Peanut Butter, Small Bowls, Popsicle Stick, Paper Plate or Tray, Bird Seed, Twine or String, Scissors

- First go outside and find some pine cones (any size will work)
- Place the pine cone onto a paper plate and spread peanut butter on it. It is easiest for young children to spread the peanut butter with a popsicle stick but a spoon will work too.
- Next, sprinkle the bird seed on the pine cone so it sticks to the peanut butter.
- Tie the twine or string around the top of the pine cone and hang them from a tree or hook. Make sure to hang them someplace you can watch the birds enjoy

See if you can identify the birds you attract to your feeder!