

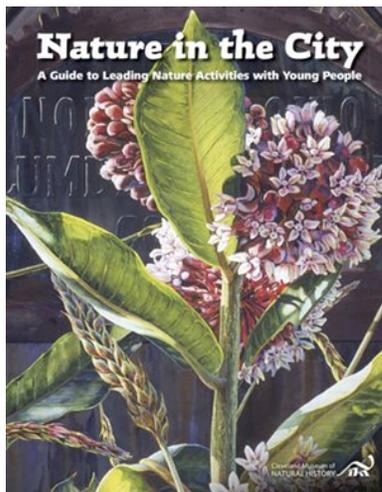


Nature Detectives Resource Packet

Encourage both children and adult learners to become nature detectives by observing a specific outdoor area and finding evidence of the animals that live there!

This packet includes:

- ***Adventure 4 – Nature Detectives Activity***, excerpt from *Nature in the City: A Guide to Leading Nature Activities with Young People*, published by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History
- **Nature Detectives Recording Sheets**, developed by the Educator Resource Center at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History



Nature in the City: A Guide to Leading Nature Activities with Young People

Nature in the City is an innovative educational program designed to open the eyes of young people to the natural diversity that thrives around them, wherever they may live — city or suburb. Developed by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, *Nature in the City* is intended for use by teachers, homeschool parents, youth organizations and others who work with grade-school-age children. The program provides a range of activities, many of them game-oriented, that center on an outdoor Field Site. These activities help children develop observation and critical thinking skills as they learn real-world, hands-on science lessons. At the heart of the *Nature in the City* program is the belief that providing children with opportunities to experience the joy of discovery in nature can be the start of a lifelong appreciation of the natural world.

Purchase a copy: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0692838147>



Educator Resource Center

CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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To learn more about the Educator Resource Center at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, please visit:

<https://www.cmnh.org/learn/educator-resource-center>



At the Field Site

The Search

Look for animal evidence. Record what you find in the proper column on your chart.

Detective Work

The following is a list of useful techniques for observing and collecting insects and other invertebrates:

- Leave a yellow bowl with water in a partially sunny spot.
- Paint honey or molasses on a tree.
- Hide old fruit or anything sugary among the plants.
- Bury a bowl so that its top is level with the surface of the ground. (You have made a pitfall trap.) Add a piece of banana or beer to make the bowl even more attractive. Cover with a piece of wood propped up by small stones.
- Smooth out the dirt in one area and bait with food, or bait after a fresh snowfall. Look for tracks.
- If you have dead trees, peel away some of the bark and see what's underneath.
- Observe visitors to blooming flowers.

Check the baits as early as possible the next day. Note the number, kind and direction of any animal tracks. Draw pictures of them. Look for insects and other invertebrates in the water trap, on the tree, on the fruit, in the pitfall trap and around the baits on the ground. Collect in a container a sample of each kind of insect. (Possible containers: plastic food container, zip-seal baggie. Do not use glass. Don't forget that animals need air. Either poke tiny holes in the lid of the container or secure fabric over the opening of a container with a rubber band.)

Place bird seed feeders or hummingbird feeders at your Field Site.

Plan on returning your animals to the Field Site after a period of observation.

For the very adventurous, set up a nighttime light trap. It's as simple as placing a white sheet or blanket out on a fence. Ideally, you should shine a light on the sheet. You'll be amazed at what you see in the morning!



Helpful Tip

Save your empty plastic jar for a useful temporary home for observing animals.



Supplies

Zip-seal baggies

Small plastic bowl, such as reused margarine or yogurt container

Misc. baits

NATURE DETECTIVES

Date: _____

Location: _____

*Look all around you.
What evidence of animals do you see?
Record your observations in the T-Chart.*

EVIDENCE	TALLY MARKS
Animal Homes	
Animal Parts	
Animal Tracks	
Animal Droppings (Scat)	
Evidence of Animal Activity	



NATURE DETECTIVES

Date: _____

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*Look all around you.
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NATURE DETECTIVES

Date: _____

Location: _____

*Look all around you.
What evidence of animals do you see?
Record your observations below.*

Animal Homes	Animal Parts	Animal Tracks
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Animal Droppings (Scat)	Evidence of Animal Activity
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NATURE DETECTIVES

Date: _____

Location: _____

*Look all around you.
What evidence of animals do you see?
Record your observations below.*

Animal Homes	Animal Parts	Animal Tracks
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Animal Droppings (Scat)	Evidence of Animal Activity
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NATURE DETECTIVES

Date: _____

Location: _____

*Look all around you.
What evidence of animals do you see?
Circle every item that you find.*

Animal Homes



Squirrel Nest



Wasp Nest



Spider Web



Bird Nest



Burrow



Tree Hollow

Animal Parts



Bones



Feathers



Fur

Animal Tracks



Animal Droppings (Scat)



scat
0.2 in
0.5 cm

Evidence of Animal Activity

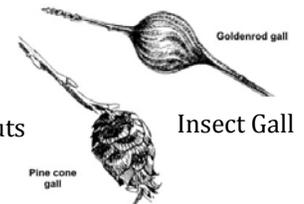


Holes in Leaves

Holes in Seeds/Nuts



Holes in Ground



Insect Gall



Bark Beetle

