



Kids in the Biosphere Club

Tuesday: Wild for Wildlife

Search for Wildlife Signs

Time to become a detective! Lots of times, instead of seeing wildlife, we see signs that they were around. If you're out for a walk or hike, or spending time in your animal lookout, think about who might be around! Don't stop at who... think about why, when, what they were doing, and where they were going! Improve your senses with these activities.

1. Owl Eyes

Owls move their heads because they can't move their eyes. They can see out of the corners of their eyes very well! Stretch your arms out to your sides and wiggle your fingers. Relax your eyes and look straight ahead. When you see your fingers moving, without moving your eyes, you have owl eyes!

2. Hide the Pencil

Close your eyes and have a friend or family member hide a pencil somewhere in the forest within your line of sight. Open your eyes and see if you can spot it. If you can, you have eyes like a hawk!

3. Searching for Signs

You're ready! Here are some common signs an animal was nearby. Record any that you find!

- ☐ Tracks on the ground
- ☐ Scat (a fancy way to say animal poop)
- ☐ Eating marks (example: chewed stumps, holes in trees)
- ☐ Homes (example: nests)
- ☐ Sounds! (Can you hear birds or squirrels? How many?)
- ☐ Body parts (examples: feathers, fur, antlers)

I Spy Wildlife! Building Animal Lookouts

Looking for a cool place to spend time outside? No need to look, when you can make one! Building an animal lookout is just like building a fort, it is easy and can may help you see more birds and other animals. Here are two options for how to make a super cool animal lookout!

OPTION 1 - LEAN-TO FORT STYLE

1. Location, Location, Location!

First thing to check is safety! With an adult, find a safe spot in your backyard or natural area where the ground is as flat and dry as possible. Make sure you aren't too close to any bodies of water. Flooding would ruin all your hard work.

2. Find Your Trees

To start your fort, you're going to want two trees that stand about 2 meters away from each other. They need to have solid branches about 1 meter high to rest a long branch across – this will hold up your animal lookout.

3. Branch Manager

Locate a long, strong branch that has fallen on the ground to place between your trees. Rest it on top of the two lower branches mentioned in the last step.

4. Leaning Logs

Look around for shorter branches or logs on the ground to lean up against the branch you have hanging between the two trees. Try and get them to sit close together, and the more you have the better. What you're making should look like half a tent.

5. Final Touches

Grab branches from the ground that have leaves or needles on them to cover up any gaps or holes in your fort. This helps your fort protect you better and look extra cool.

Credit and more information: <https://theepicadventurers.com/crafts-activities/woodland-dens-guide/>



OPTION 2 - ANIMAL BLIND

A 'blind' is a word for a human made shelter that allows you to observe wildlife without being seen. This option is a lot like creating a tent!

MATERIALS

An old sheet or blanket (green is best!), 2 branches or poles 1.5 meters long, 1 branch or pole 2 meters long, string, scissors, clips or clothespins

1. Location, Location, Location!

Find a spot for your blind where you know you will see birds or other animals, such as a park, your backyard, or a forest trail.

2. Make the Frame

Make a triangle with the two smaller branches or poles. Overlap them a little bit at the top of the triangle (to make a V shape) and use your string to tie them together where the branches touch. The whole form should look like an uneven X. Then, take the long branch and lean it on the top of your triangle, placing it inside your little V shape. Now you can tie all three together where they meet, forming a tent-like structure. It should be able to stand on its own without your support.



3. Final Touches

Lay the sheet overtop of your branches or poles and use some stones to weight it down at the sides. It should look like a tent. Then with your scissors, cut a small viewing hole. You can use your clips to hold the flap open when you are watching the birds and other wildlife.



4. Enjoy!

Not only is this a great place to look for birds and wildlife, you can read, have a snack, do some other Kids in the Biosphere activities, and much more! If you do want to look for wildlife, make sure to be very still and quiet!

Bird Bingo Bonanza

While you sit and watch your new bird friends fly by, why not play some Bird Bingo?
Every time you see something that matches a square on your card, mark it off.
Whoever gets a straight line first wins!

BIRDING BINGO!

Can you spot these birds and their signs?



Black-Capped Chickadee	A Bird in a Tree	Northern Cardinal	A Bird's Nest
A Bird You Haven't Seen Before	Blue Jay	Mallard Duck	A Bird on the Ground
Red-Breasted Nuthatch	Trumpeter Swan	A Bird in the Water or on the Ice	Pileated Woodpecker
A Feather	Canada Goose	House Finch	Heard a Bird's Song



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Credit and more:

www.wyemarsh.com/usercontent/CBC_Birding_Bingo.jpg

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Shadow Puppets

Stuck indoors because it's raining? Is the sun going down for the day? Bring the animals inside by creating shadow puppets! Shadow puppets and theatres are a great way to tell and make up stories.

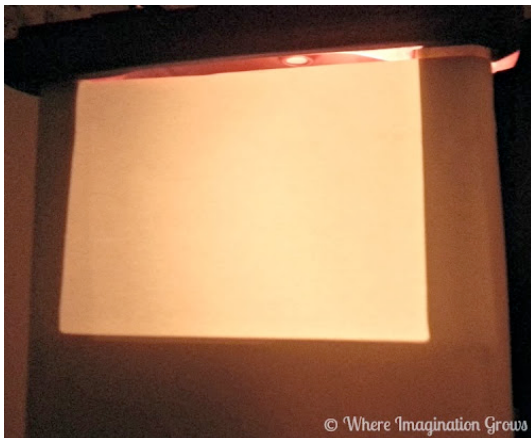
MATERIALS

Cardboard, Popsicle sticks or sticks, black paint, scissors, tape, pen, pencil or marker, flashlight, white sheet (optional)

1. Trace or sketch animal or people shapes onto the cardboard.
2. Cut out the shape carefully or have an adult help with this part.
3. Paint your cut outs black (lay newspaper down first to avoid a mess).
4. When the paint is dry, tape one Popsicle stick to the back of each shadow puppet. Make sure that they are secure!



5. You can use a large, bare wall in your home for a Shadow Puppet Theatre. Simply place a flashlight on a table or chair behind you so that it is facing the wall. Then hold your shadow puppets up so you can see their shapes on the wall.



6. Another option is, with the help of an adult, to hang a white sheet up to make a show for your family. Have your family sit on one side of the sheet with the flashlight and the shadow puppets on the other side. This way all they will see are the shadows!

Credit: whereimaginationgrows.com/exploring-light-with-shadow-puppet-play

Shredded Paper Animal Art

Making art can be as easy as checking out what you have in your recycling bin and shredding it up!

MATERIALS

Glue and paper (check your recycling bin for paper, cardboard, or old magazines)

1. Select a piece of black or white paper for your background (any colour will do but black and white will show off your art the best).
2. Choose your animal to create! A fox, owl, cat, or fish are great choices but the sky's the limit! You can draw an outline to help you start if you need it.
3. Next, SHRED! Select some paper in the colour you'd like your animal to be and shred it into small pieces, about the size of a quarter or a nickel.
4. Glue your shredded paper in the shape of your animal. Start filling in your outlines, or make one with the shredded paper.
5. You can draw in your own eyes or use more shredded paper or googly eyes.

Credit: www.easypeasyandfun.com/paper-collage-fox-craft/



Additional Resources

Check out these Kids in the Biosphere Activities at www.gbbr.ca/kids-in-the-biosphere/

Biosphere Birds
Let's Talk Turtles
Insects in the Night

Don't Let it Loose! Invasive Species
Amphibian Alert

Bonus: it's FrogWatch season! FrogWatch is a program designed to teach people about Ontario's frogs and toads. Volunteers can help gather information about where frogs are living in our province. Any information you send in will be added to an online map: www.naturewatch.ca/frogwatch