



BACKYARD NATURE ADVENTURE KIT

EXPLORE. ✨
DISCOVER.
CREATE.
WONDER! ✨

EXPLORER
JOURNAL

BACKYARD NATURE ADVENTURE KIT



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BACKYARD NATURE ADVENTURE

ADVENTURE IS WAITING JUST OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR!

Welcome to Your Backyard Adventure!

This week, you'll transform your own backyard and neighborhood into an exciting place of discovery. Instead of searching for the next activity to keep your kids busy, we've planned a full week of simple adventures that encourage curiosity, observation, creativity, and hands-on learning.

Each mission can be completed in about 20–45 minutes, and you can mix and match activities to fit your family's schedule. There are no strict rules—just opportunities to slow down, explore, and make memories together.

**Whether you complete one mission or every challenge, your child will finish the week seeing the outdoors with fresh eyes.
So grab your explorer supplies.**

Parent Tips

Follow your child's curiosity.

It's okay if you spend twenty minutes watching ants instead of finishing every activity.

The goal isn't to complete every page—it's to notice, wonder, ask questions, and enjoy exploring together.

Remember, some of the best learning happens when children slow down and observe the world around them.

THIS WEEK'S MISSIONS & SUPPLIES

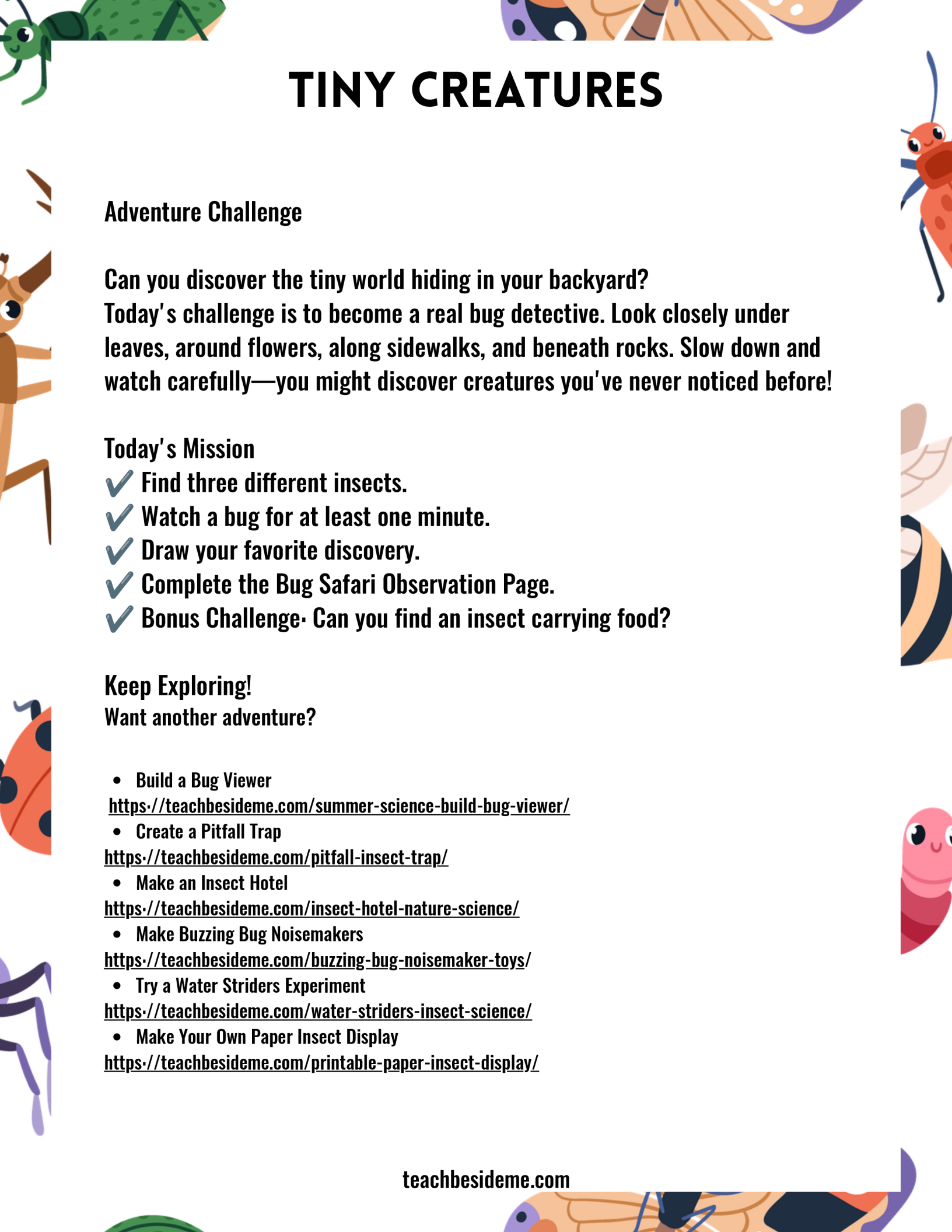
Missions

- Mission 1· Tiny Creatures
- Mission 2· Growing Things
- Mission 3· Senses in Nature
- Mission 4· Sky Watching
- Mission 5· Nature Makers

Supplies

Most of these are things you probably already have!

- ✓ Clipboard (optional)
- ✓ Pencil
- ✓ Crayons or colored pencils
- ✓ Magnifying glass (optional)
- ✓ Small jar or bug viewer (optional)
- ✓ Tape
- ✓ Camera or phone (optional)
- ✓ Blanket for cloud watching
- ✓ Small bucket or container



TINY CREATURES

Adventure Challenge

Can you discover the tiny world hiding in your backyard?

Today's challenge is to become a real bug detective. Look closely under leaves, around flowers, along sidewalks, and beneath rocks. Slow down and watch carefully—you might discover creatures you've never noticed before!

Today's Mission

- ✓ Find three different insects.
- ✓ Watch a bug for at least one minute.
- ✓ Draw your favorite discovery.
- ✓ Complete the Bug Safari Observation Page.
- ✓ Bonus Challenge: Can you find an insect carrying food?

Keep Exploring!

Want another adventure?

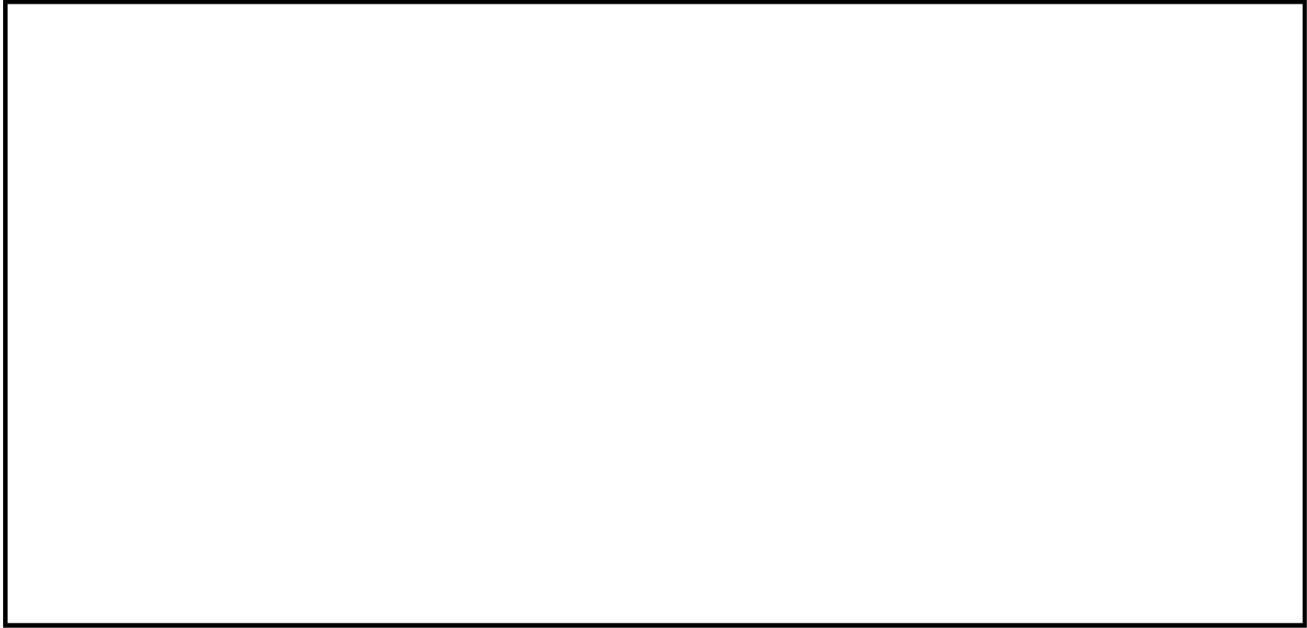
- Build a Bug Viewer
<https://teachbesideme.com/summer-science-build-bug-viewer/>
- Create a Pitfall Trap
<https://teachbesideme.com/pitfall-insect-trap/>
- Make an Insect Hotel
<https://teachbesideme.com/insect-hotel-nature-science/>
- Make Buzzing Bug Noisemakers
<https://teachbesideme.com/buzzing-bug-noisemaker-toys/>
- Try a Water Striders Experiment
<https://teachbesideme.com/water-striders-insect-science/>
- Make Your Own Paper Insect Display
<https://teachbesideme.com/printable-paper-insect-display/>



BUG DETECTIVE LOG

Become a bug detective. Slow down and look closely. Bugs are everywhere—you just have to know where to look! Search under leaves, near flowers, around tree trunks, along sidewalks, and in the grass. Observe your insect carefully before it moves away.

DRAW WHAT YOU FIND



DETECTIVE NOTES:

What colors did you notice? _____

How many legs did it have? _____

Did it have wings? _____

How did it move? _____

Where did you find it? _____

What was your bug busy doing? _____

What do you wonder about it? _____

Challenge: Collect a few bugs into a container to observe for a few days.

EXPLORER FACT:

DID YOU KNOW? SCIENTISTS WHO STUDY INSECTS ARE CALLED ENTOMOLOGISTS!

GROWING THINGS

Today's Mission• Become a Plant Explorer!

Plants are everywhere, but we often walk right past them without noticing. Today you'll slow down and discover the amazing details hiding in flowers, leaves, seeds, grasses, trees, and gardens.

Look closely. Touch gently. Notice colors, shapes, textures, and patterns. What makes each plant unique?

Today's Mission

- ✓ Investigate a flower.
- ✓ Compare two different leaves.
- ✓ Find a seed.
- ✓ Create a work of art with the nature you find.
- ✓ Complete the Plant Explorer Page.

Want to Keep Exploring?

- Make a Leaf Matching Game

<https://teachbesideme.com/nature-hunt-leaf-matching-game/>

- Dissect a Flower

<https://teachbesideme.com/parts-of-a-flower-diagram/>

- Go on an Leaf Shape Hunt

<https://teachbesideme.com/leaf-shape-hunt/>

- Try a Leaf Transpiration Experiment

<https://teachbesideme.com/leaf-transpiration-experiment/>

- Grow a Seed in a Bag

<https://teachbesideme.com/grow-a-seed-in-a-bag-plant-life-cycles-simple-science-for-kids/>

- Grow the Earth Seed Paper

<https://teachbesideme.com/grow-the-earth-seed-paper-earth-day-craft-for-kids/>

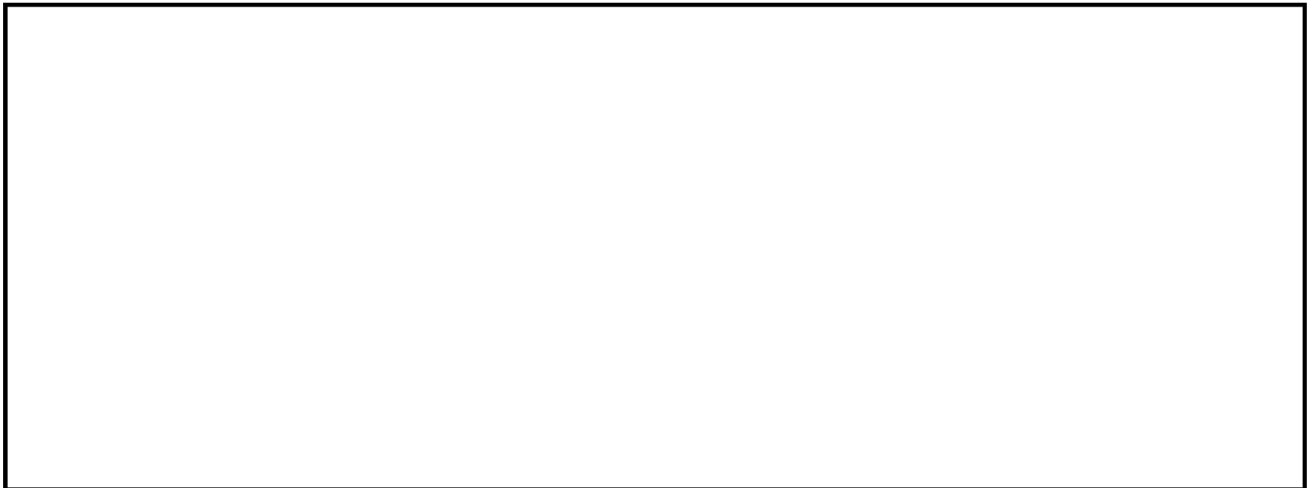
THE GREAT PLANT HUNT

Every plant has a story to tell! Your mission today is to explore your backyard like a real botanist. Can you complete your plant collection by finding each of the treasures below?

CAN YOU FIND?

- ☐ Something blooming
- ☐ Something with interesting leaves
- ☐ The tallest growing thing
- ☐ The tiniest growing thing
- ☐ Something making seeds or fruit
- ☐ Something prickly
- ☐ A plant with a wonderful smell
- ☐ Something fuzzy
- ☐ A leaf larger than your hand
- ☐ Plants with patterns

DRAW YOUR GREATEST DISCOVERY



Bonus Challenge- Can you create a tiny piece of nature art? Try one of these- Press a flower. Make a leaf rubbing. Create a nature collage. Arrange leaves into an animal. Build a fairy garden. Arrange a tiny bouquet.

EXPLORER FACT:
DID YOU KNOW? PLANTS MAKE THEIR OWN FOOD USING SUNLIGHT THROUGH A PROCESS CALLED PHOTOSYNTHESIS!

SENSES IN NATURE

Nature isn't just something you see—it's something you can hear, smell, touch, and even taste! Today, slow down and explore the outdoors using all five of your senses. You might be surprised by how much you've been missing.

Today's Challenge

Can you...

- ✓ Listen for five different sounds.
- ✓ Find five interesting textures.
- ✓ Smell three different plants.
- ✓ Walk barefoot on grass (if it's safe).
- ✓ Find something delicious growing in nature (with a grown-up's permission).
- ✓ Complete your Sensory Adventure Log.

Want to Keep Exploring?

- Learn about edible plant parts.

<https://teachbesideme.com/mix-match-edible-plant-parts-activity-for-kids/>

- Learn about different seeds we can eat.

<https://teachbesideme.com/the-seeds-we-eat-nature-science/>

- Paint with the rain

<https://teachbesideme.com/rainy-day-art-crayon-resist-rain-painting-for-kids/>

- Smell different herbs and spices

<https://teachbesideme.com/exploring-spices-around-world/>

- Try a color scavenger hunt viewer

<https://teachbesideme.com/color-scavenger-hunt/>

SENSORY ADVENTURE

Nature is full of amazing sights, sounds, smells, and textures! Use all five of your senses, and discover the incredible world waiting just outside your door. Complete each mini adventure to become a true nature explorer!

SOUND SAFARI

Sit quietly for two minutes.

Can you hear...

- ☐ A bird
- ☐ An insect
- ☐ The wind
- ☐ Leaves rustling
- ☐ A person
- ☐ Something that surprised you

Favorite sound: _____

TEXTURE TREASURE HUNT

Find something...

- ☐ Rough
- ☐ Smooth
- ☐ Fuzzy
- ☐ Prickly
- ☐ Soft
- ☐ Bumpy

Make a rubbing of your favorite texture with a crayon!

NATURE SMELL HUNT

Can you smell...

- ☐ A flower
- ☐ Fresh grass
- ☐ Dirt
- ☐ Leaves
- ☐ Something sweet
- ☐ Something earthy

Best smell today: _____

BAREFOOT ADVENTURE

Walk on...

- ☐ Grass
- ☐ Dirt
- ☐ Sand
- ☐ Smooth rock
- ☐ Mulch
- ☐ Sidewalk

Which felt the best? _____

NATURE KITCHEN

Make a Mud Pie
or Mix a Nature Potion

Use:

Leaves, Flowers, Grass, Seeds,
Water, Sticks, Pebbles

Name your recipe: _____

TASTING TIME

Taste something growing!
(Only with a grown-up's permission.)

- Berry
- Herb
- Vegetable
- Tomato
- Lettuce

What was your favorite?

SKY WATCHING

Have you ever stopped to simply look up? The sky is always changing! Today you'll become a Sky Watcher as you explore the clouds, weather, sunlight, birds, and shadows. Slow down, look carefully, and see what amazing discoveries are waiting above your head.

Today's Challenge

- ✓ Watch the clouds for at least 5 minutes.
- ✓ Find shapes hiding in the clouds.
- ✓ Trace your shadow with sidewalk chalk and watch how it changes.
- ✓ Spot something flying through the sky.
- ✓ Notice the weather and the colors of the sky.
- ✓ Complete your Sky Watch Adventure Page.

Want to Keep Exploring?

- Make a shadow human sundial
<https://teachbesideme.com/fun-dial/>
- Cook s'mores with the sun!
<https://teachbesideme.com/nature-science-experiments-solar-smores/>
- Print out some constellation cards
<https://teachbesideme.com/constellation-cards/>
- Make a moon phases slider
<https://teachbesideme.com/moon-phases-activity/>
- Learn the cloud shapes and track the ones you see!
<https://teachbesideme.com/cloud-formations/>

SKY WATCHING ADVENTURE

Nature is full of amazing sights, sounds, smells, and textures! Use all five of your senses, and discover the incredible world waiting just outside your door. Complete each mini adventure to become a true nature explorer!

CLOUD WATCH

Lie on the grass and watch the clouds for a few minutes.

Can you find-

- ☐ An animal
- ☐ A face
- ☐ Something that flies
- ☐ A silly shape
- ☐ Your favorite cloud

SHADOW DETECTIVE

Watch shadows throughout the day. Can you discover...

- ☐ A long shadow
- ☐ A short shadow
- ☐ A shadow that moved
- ☐ Two different shadows

Bonus Trace shadows with sidewalk chalk and come back later to see what changed!

SKY SPOTTER

Look up in the sky. Can you find-

- ☐ A bird
- ☐ An airplane
- ☐ A butterfly
- ☐ A bee
- ☐ Something floating
- ☐ Something moving quickly

SKY COLORS

Watch a sunrise or sunset. What colors do you see?

- ☐ Blue
- ☐ White
- ☐ Gray
- ☐ Pink
- ☐ Orange
- ☐ Purple
- ☐ Something unexpected!

EVENING ADVENTURE

After the sun goes down, can you find-

- ☐ The Moon
- ☐ The first star
- ☐ A planet
- ☐ A constellation
- ☐ An owl

SLOW DOWN

Lie quietly on a blanket and look at the sky for five whole minutes. Don't talk—just notice. Watch the clouds drift by, listen to the birds overhead, and enjoy the peaceful moment.

What surprised you the most?

NATURE MAKERS

You've spent the week discovering the amazing world around you. Now it's your turn to use nature as your inspiration! Build, create, imagine, and invent using the treasures you've found outside. There is no right or wrong way to create—let your imagination lead the way.

Today's Challenge

Choose 2 or more Nature Maker challenges!

- ✓ Build a tiny fairy or animal home using sticks, rocks, leaves, and other natural materials.
- ✓ Stack rocks to build the tallest tower you can.
- ✓ Design a nature mandala using flowers, leaves, sticks, seeds, or pinecones.
- ✓ Build something amazing with sticks—a bridge, sculpture, fort, or letter of the alphabet.
- ✓ Create a tiny nature scene for your favorite toy animal or dinosaur.
- ✓ Invent your own Nature Maker challenge!

Take a photo of your favorite creation before nature changes it.

Want to Keep Exploring?

- Make leaf crowns

<https://teachbesideme.com/how-to-make-leaf-crowns-a-simple-autumn-nature-craft-for-kids/>

- Make pressed Flower pictures

<https://teachbesideme.com/pressed-flower-pictures/>

- Mix & match painted rock faces

<https://teachbesideme.com/mix-match-painted-rock-faces/>

- DIY Orange bird feeder

<https://teachbesideme.com/homemade-orange-bird-feeders-winter-nature-craft/>

NATURE MAKERS

You've spent the week exploring the world around you. Now it's time to become a Nature Maker! Use sticks, rocks, leaves, flowers, water, and other natural treasures to build, create, and imagine. There are no instructions—just choose a challenge that sounds fun and let your creativity lead the way!

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE!

PICK 2 OR MORE CHALLENGES TO COMPLETE TODAY.

- **Rock Balancer**· How many rocks can you stack? Can you build the tallest tower without it falling?
- **Nature Engineer**· Can you build a bridge using only natural materials? Can your bridge hold a pinecone?
- **Tiny Home**· Build a tiny home for a chipmunk, mouse, rabbit, frog, fairy, dinosaur, or your favorite toy animal. Who lives there?
- **Leaf Artist**· Create a picture, animal, face, mandala, or design using only leaves and other natural treasures.
- **Stick Engineer**· Build something using sticks. Ideas· bridge, your name, tent, sculpture, fence, tower
- **River Builder**· Use water to create a tiny river. Can you make it twist around rocks? Can you build a dam? Can you make a bridge across it?
- **Nature Bracelet**· Wrap a strip of masking tape around your wrist (sticky side out) and decorate it with tiny flowers, grasses, leaves, and other treasures.
- **Invent Your Own!** What can you build that no one else has ever imagined?

BACKYARD NATURE ADVENTURE

Official Explorer Certificate



Congratulations!

This certificate is proudly presented to

**for successfully completing the Backyard Nature Adventure and for
spending a week exploring, wondering, creating, and discovering the
amazing world just outside the door.**

Date· _____

Signed· _____

Keep exploring. Keep wondering. Keep learning.