Exploring Your Nature Neighborhood: Resources Sharing

Educators, the NC Museum of Natural Science has created a series of online workshops that you can take for CEUs or EE credit. But you don't have to take the workshops to use the materials! ***You are welcome to use or modify any of the resources we have created, in whatever way you need.***

Each linked document (below) includes downloadable files (videos, activity instructions, reference materials, worksheets, etc). Each also includes our Google Classroom setup so that you can easily recreate a similar lesson for your students if desired. Most activities can be completed in a backyard, schoolyard, or local natural area, so they're relevant in both remote and in-person learning settings.

This summary is intended to share resources for you to use with students. For information on taking any of these workshops for credit, visit our Nature Neighborhood Workshops webpage. We are still in the process of updating this document with curriculum correlations - there are many!

TOPIC/TITLE	RESOURCES	ACTIVITIES	CURRICULUM GUIDES
Creating a Nature Journal	• How-to video and written instructions • Examples of historical nature journal entries	• Setting up a nature journal page/first entry • Adding an epigraph	Creating a Nature Journal: Curriculum Guide
Using Your Senses	• Video guiding practice using 5 senses	• Writing using 5 senses observations	Using your Senses: Curriculum Guide
Looking Closely	• Video on how to use a magnifier (& alternatives) • Fingerprint patterns	• Observing/sketching fingerprints • Haiku writing • Sketching shapes and patterns	Looking Closely: Curriculum Guide
Parts of a Flower	• Video detailing flower parts • Flowers parts diagrams	• Flower dissection • Flower development observation	Parts of a Flower: Curriculum Guide

Citizen Science Adventure: Nature's Notebook	• How-to video on collecting data for Nature's Notebook • How-to guides, links, and apps	• Collecting & reporting data • Sketching buds with texturing techniques • Exploring Nature's Notebook data analysis tools	Nature's Notebook: Curriculum Guide
Citizen Science Adventure: eBird	• How-to video on observing and identify birds and reporting data to eBird • How-to guides, links, and apps	• Collecting & reporting data • Sketching birds using action drawings • Sound mapping activity	eBird: Curriculum Guide
Under a Rotten Log	• Video showing ways to safely explore under logs and common creatures • Field guides to common rotten log creatures	• Observing rotten log creatures • Creating a scientific diagram • Making an isopod igloo as habitat for roly polies	Under a Rotten Log: Curriculum Guide
Trees to Meet You	• Video exploring tree characteristics • Field guides and apps for local tree ID	• Leaf sketching (contour drawing, rubbing) • Creation of a tree field guide page based on observations • Writing a perspective poem	Trees to Meet You: Curriculum Guide
Citizen Science Adventure: Project Squirrel	• How-to video on collecting data for Project Squirrel • Guide to squirrel behaviors	• Data collection & reporting • Creating a comic strip based on behavior observations	Project Squirrel: Curriculum Guide
Vulture EdVenture	• Video all about vultures • Resource docs on soaring, scavengers, stomach acidity, vulture legends and folktales	• Writing a concrete poem • Using paper airplanes to examine how birds soar • Creating a food web • Building a vulture stomach • Reading and writing legends	Vulture EdVenture: Curriculum Guide
Insect Investigation	• How-to video on looking for and observing insects • Insect identification guide and resource PPT on dichotomous keys	• Insect collection • Creating a dichotomous key • Observational interview • Create your own arthropod	Insect Investigation: Curriculum Guide

Super Soils: The Dirt on Dirt	• Mapping Your Soil Step-by-Step Tutorial • Soil Series Extent Map Walkthrough • Soil Texture Triangle	• Sensory soil observations • Mapping of soils with an online database • Soil Texture Analysis • Soil Paintings	Super Soils: The Dirt on Dirt: Curriculum Guide
Watershed Stewardship	• Videos introducing watersheds, demonstrating macroinvertebrate sampling methods, and introducing biotic indices • Identification Guides • Resource document about pollution mitigation	• Find your watershed • Aquatic Habitat map • Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Sampling • Calculating the Biotic Index • NC Pollution Case Study	Watershed Stewardship: Curriculum Guide

*If you find our resources useful or use them with your students, we'd love to hear about it to help us document the value of our work at the Museum. You don't have to do this… but **we'd appreciate an email letting us know what you're using** to either:*

Megan Davis - megan.davis@naturalsciences.org
Rory McCollum - rory.mccollum@naturalsciences.org