



Name _____

Date _____ Hour _____

Nature Journaling:

Assessment for Outcome #3

(Mastery is 54/77 points)

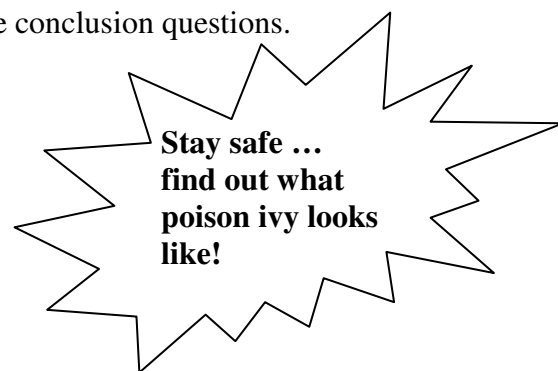
Background: The study of natural history encompasses the whole world, including the life contained in a backyard. It operates on all scales from the panoramic sweep of a mountain-top view to a patch of weedy grass next to a sidewalk; living things are present at all levels of habitat. To better experience your own patch of earth, you will be closely observing a small area of your world and recording what you observe through nature journaling. You will be directly involved in the observations as you illustrate your area and express the feeling of having really “seen” the natural subject for the first time. Nature journaling refines drawing and observational skills, encourages deeper reflections, creates a connection to a specific place over a discrete time, and fosters an appreciation of the outside world.

Your Task:

1. Locate a natural area that you can easily access. Examples of natural areas you may want to consider include your own yard, a nearby park or other outdoor area. You will be returning to this area approximately once a week for a month so you need to ensure that you can accomplish that.
2. Each visit to your natural area must last at least 30 minutes. Be sure to dress so that you are warm enough.
3. You must turn off all electronic equipment (phones, music, etc) for the entire time you are at the site.
4. You must make 4 visits to your natural area. Three of those visits should be during the daytime and one of those visits must be at night (dark outside). You must let a parent/guardian know where you will be.
5. You must have a parent/guardian sign your journal entry after each visit.
6. Visits must be at least 4 days apart from each other.
7. For each visit, you will be making observations and reflecting. You should note your observations and record your reflections in this packet.
8. After completing all four journal entries, you must complete the conclusion questions.

Due Dates:









- First entry must be complete: **Wednesday, 9/23**
- At least two entries must be complete: **Tuesday, 9/29**
- At least three entries must be complete: **Tuesday, 10/6**
- Fourth entry must be complete: **Tuesday, 10/13**
- Entire journal and conclusion questions: **Friday, 10/16**



Details about Observations and Reflections:

9. Observations that must be included at each visit are:
 - a. Description of the weather conditions including temperature, sky conditions, wind speed and note any recent weather events (such as rain the night before)
 - b. Labeled drawing of at least one item/scene from your site. Take time to do a good job on this picture. Perhaps you take colored pencils with you so you can color while you sketch...

10. Each visit will require a reflection. You have some choices for completing the reflection. For each visit, you must use a different style of reflection as outlined in the options.

<p>Respond to a quote: Select a quote and consider its meaning. Also, reflect on how it connects to your natural area. You should rewrite the quote on that day's reflection.</p> <p>Quote Options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “You only need sit still long enough in some attractive spot in the woods that all its inhabitants may exhibit themselves to you by turns.” (Henry David Thoreau in <i>Walden</i>) • “Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.” (John Ruskin) • “In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.” (John Muir) 	<p>Human footprint: Consider how humans have interacted with your natural area. In what ways do humans shape your area and in what ways are plants and animals influencing and affecting humans?</p> <p>As you consider this reflection, try to envision how your particular natural area and humans have interacted over time (both short-term time periods and longer time frames).</p> 	<p>A day in the life: Consider how your natural area experiences a day. Visualize the changes that occur over a 24-hour time period.</p>  <p>What is happening with the plants? What animals are moving around at different times? How are they interacting? Is there any human interaction? What is the story of your natural area during the last 24 hours?</p>
<p>Acrostic: As you sit and enjoy your natural area, consider nature as a whole. Compose an acrostic on a nature topic of your choice.</p> <p>An acrostic is a poem that explains a word that is written vertically on the page. Each line of the poem begins a letter of the word.</p>  <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Frost glistening on the grass, Arching lines of geese overhead, Lingering dew on the windowpane, Luscious color changing leaves.</p> </div>	<p>Mind Map: After making your observations for the day, sit quietly and enjoy your natural area. Begin to map your thoughts.</p>  <p>A mind map shows the connections and pathways your thoughts travel. Your thoughts may be closely linked to your natural area or they may travel somewhere completely different.</p>	<p>Personal History: Reflect on how this particular day at this particular spot is connected to your history. Consider your current feelings and attitudes along with your actions.</p>  <p>In what ways does this natural experience remind you of something in the past? You may be literally connecting this particular spot to something from the past or you may connect this spot to some other location and event from your past. Explain the relationship.</p>
<p>Senses: Focus your reflection on a single sense (smell, touch, sight or hearing). Spend some time exploring your site using the sense you've selected.</p> <p>Describe your site based on that sense. What do you notice that is new or different when you are focused so much on that sense? What are you feeling and thinking?</p> 	<p>Item Perspective: For this reflection, you should select a single item in your natural area. Then, consider the “existence” of this item. Your item may be living or non-living.</p> <p>Describe the “life” of your item.</p> 	<p>Personification: Select a few items from your natural area to personify. Personification means that you will treat your non-human items as if they were motivated the way that humans are. For example, you will impart thoughts and feelings onto your non-human items. The organisms will be able to “talk.”</p>  <p>Your reflection should be a narrative describing how these personified organisms are interacting with each other. You can select a timeframe for those interactions.</p>

Journal Entries:

Entry #1: Date _____ Time Visited: _____

Parent Verification _____

Observations: (This entry MUST be completed by September 23.)

Describe the current weather conditions (wind, cloud cover, rain, temp., etc)



Draw a picture: Select something within your natural area to focus on drawing or include a larger portion of the scene. Include a title and description of your drawing.

Entry #2: Date _____ Time Visited: _____

Parent Verification _____

Observations: (This entry must be completed by September 29.)

Describe the current weather conditions (wind, cloud cover, rain, temp., etc)



Draw a picture: Select something within your natural area to focus on drawing or include a larger portion of the scene. Include a title and description of your drawing.

Entry #3: Date _____ Time Visited: _____

Parent Verification _____

Observations: (This entry must be completed by October 6.)

Describe the current weather conditions (wind, cloud cover, rain, temp., etc)



Draw a picture: Select something within your natural area to focus on drawing or include a larger portion of the scene. Include a title and description of your drawing.

Entry #4: Date _____ Time Visited: _____

Parent Verification _____

Observations: (This entry must be completed by October 13.)

Describe the current weather conditions (wind, cloud cover, rain, temp., etc)



Draw a picture: Select something within your natural area to focus on drawing or include a larger portion of the scene. Include a title and description of your drawing.

Concluding Questions: (All entries and concluding questions are due October 16.)

1. Where was your natural area? Why did you choose it? What is it like?
2. How do humans interact with other species (plants and animals) in this natural area? Explain.
3. Describe the evidence of consumers and decomposers at your site. (You may not have seen them during your visit.) What consumers do you think visit your site?
4. What are the limiting factors for the plants in this natural area? Explain.
5. What are the limiting factors for the animals in this natural area? Explain.
6. Based on your observations, draw a probable food web for your natural area. Include all parts necessary for a food web.

Nature Journaling Assessment Rubric:

	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Deadlines	Met all deadlines	Missed one deadline	Missed two deadlines	Missed more than two deadlines
Parent verification	All four verified	Missed one verification	Missed two or three verifications	No parent verifications
Journal 1 – Must be completed by September 23				
Time/Date	Complete and thorough	N/A	Time or date missing	None entered
Weather observations	Complete, detailed list of weather	Missed one key component of weather in your description	Only have a start on the weather portion	None entered
Picture	Obvious time spent detailing site, picture labeled and described well	Picture is fine but missing description or vice versa	Barely a sketch	Missing
Reflection	5 points: Unique reflection type; thorough & obvious thought given for reflection	3 points: Duplicated reflection type OR less than thorough consideration	2 points: Reflection type is not clearly identifiable OR very incomplete reflection	1 or fewer points: Lacking many aspects of reflection OR missing
Journal 2 – Must be completed by September 29				
Time/Date	Complete and thorough	N/A	Time or date missing	None entered
Weather observations	Complete, detailed list of weather	Missed one key component of weather in your description	Only have a start on the weather portion	None entered
Picture	Obvious time spent detailing site, picture labeled and described well	Picture is fine but missing description or vice versa	Barely a sketch	Missing
Reflection	5 points: Unique reflection type; thorough & obvious thought given for reflection	3 points: Duplicated reflection type OR less than thorough consideration	2 points: Reflection type is not clearly identifiable OR very incomplete reflection	1 or fewer points: Lacking many aspects of reflection OR missing
Journal 3—Must be completed by October 6				
Time/Date	Complete and thorough	N/A	Time or date missing	None entered
Weather observations	Complete, detailed list of weather	Missed one key component of weather in your description	Only have a start on the weather portion	None entered
Picture	Obvious time spent detailing site, picture labeled and described well	Picture is fine but missing description or vice versa	Barely a sketch	Missing
Reflection	5 points: Unique reflection type; thorough & obvious thought given for reflection	3 points: Duplicated reflection type OR less than thorough consideration	2 points: Reflection type is not clearly identifiable OR very incomplete reflection	1 or fewer points: Lacking many aspects of reflection OR missing
Journal 4—Must be completed by October 13				
Time/Date	Complete and thorough	N/A	Time or date missing	None entered
Weather observations	Complete, detailed list of weather	Missed one key component of weather in your description	Only have a start on the weather portion	None entered
Picture	Obvious time spent detailing site, picture labeled and described well	Picture is fine but missing description or vice versa	Barely a sketch	Missing
Reflection	5 points: Unique reflection type; thorough & obvious thought given for reflection	3 points: Duplicated reflection type OR less than thorough consideration	2 points: Reflection type is not clearly identifiable OR very incomplete reflection	1 or fewer points: Lacking many aspects of reflection OR missing
Conclusion – due by October 16 (With all 4 journal entries ... entire packet!)				
Human Interaction & Consumer, Decomposer descriptions	Identified area, explained all three components well (Questions 1,2,3)	Missing one of these OR incomplete answers	Missing two of these OR very incomplete answers	Missing
Limiting Factors	Completely addressed limiting factors for both plants and animals (Questions 4,5)	Missing one of these OR did not explain factors	Incomplete explanations	Missing
Food Web	Probable and including all required parts (Question 6, 7)	Missing some required parts OR not likely given WT's climate	Missing many parts OR completely impossible	Missing
Energy Pyramid	Correctly drawn including flow of energy and biomass (Question 8)	At least one section has problems	Many problems OR incomplete	Missing
Feedback	Good descriptions of enjoyment and suggestions (Questions 9,10)	Listed, but not described	Missing one question OR only gave one feedback	Missing