

SPRING  
2020



RANGER  
MARISA'S  
*nature  
journal*

TRAVELERS' REST  
CONNECTION

WITH THIS JOURNAL I WANT TO:

- LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS I CAN OBSERVE FROM MY YARD.
- WONDER WHAT SPRINGTIME MEANS FOR THESE PLANTS AND ANIMALS.
- WATCH SOMETHING GROW, OR BLOOM OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND DRAW THE CHANGES.



MARCH 20<sup>th</sup>

from my window,  
I can see...

Some loud,  
dark birds  
flying around  
a huge  
old tree.

I WONDER  
WHAT THEY  
ARE...



Doug. firs old! can live to be 500-1000 years

Thick bark helps these trees survive forest fires!

# THE HUGE, OLD, TREE IS A...

# Douglas Fir

Bears tear off the bark to get to the sap beneath it.



The ~~pine~~ fir cones have a unique piece that look like a mouse's back leg + tail! This makes the cones easy to identify!

flat, soft needles give it the nickname "friendly fir"

Doug. firs can be over 200ft tall, and 25ft wide!

Crows can adapt easily to almost any habitat.

THE DARK, LOUD  
BIRD, IS AN

American  
Crow

the oldest crow lived to be 16 years, 4 months old. in the wild

Crows can make and use tools. Just like humans

Crows eat many things, grains, seeds, berries, nuts, earth-worms + mice. They also eat a lot of insects, + aquatic organisms, and carrion.

The oldest captive crow lived to be 59 years old!

"Crows" are some of the most intelligent birds. They can mimic other animals + learn traffic patterns!

members of the "Corvidae" family



A few weeks ago,  
I planted some  
seeds.

March 20<sup>th</sup>

tiny leaves!

very small



As they grow, I'll  
Draw the changes  
I can see.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>

more  
leaves!

got much  
taller!

stems are  
pink!



## A QUICK GUIDE TO...

# NATURE JOURNALING WITH KIDS



## WHAT IS A NATURE JOURNAL?



A nature journal is a recorded observation of nature. Scientists, explorers, and artists have long used journals to learn about the natural world, and we can use them to do the same, while also taking time to slow down and enjoy time outdoors. They also provide various opportunities for art, writing, science, and research, all valuable lessons to share with kids.

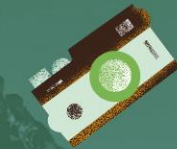
## WHERE DO I START?

Take a look out your window, sit in your yard, or go for a walk. Try to encourage noticing of smells, sounds, and sights. Point out things that otherwise may go unnoticed such as the amount of needles in a group on a conifer branch, the shapes of leaves, the different birds, and what is it that makes them different?

Allow the kids to find something that interests them, then ask some questions about it, such as "What do you like about it?" "Where does it live?" "What do you think it eats?" "What is something cool you notice about it?"



## EXPRESS YOURSELF!



Represent your observations however you like! Paint a picture, take a photo, make a collage, write about the questions asked and how it made you feel. Maybe look up the things that interested you and learn more about them, and write about the things you learned along the way. There is no wrong way to nature journal!

## WRITING PROMPTS.

- Throughout the world, there are many trees that have stood in the same place for hundreds of years. Write a story about all of the historic events and changes in society that one of these trees has seen.
- Write a story from the perspective of a bird that can see the entire world from above.
- What do you think life was like for our ancestors who had to live off of the resources they could get from nature? Do you think you could have survived this way?
- If you were a part of nature, what would you be? Why?



## ARTISTIC IDEAS.



- Leaf and tree rubbings
- Painting
- Pressed flowers/leaves
- Nature stamps (Collect objects (rocks, acorns, or leaves), dip them in paint, and press into the paper)
- Poetry/quotes
- Sketches of things you see
- Draw and identify birds, tracks, plants, or other wildlife
- Plant seeds and draw the changes you see as they grow!

## HELPFUL LINKS

<https://handbookofnaturestudy.com/>  
<https://gbbc.birdcount.org/>  
<https://theartofsimple.net/nature-journaling-with-kids/>  
<http://stateparks.mt.gov/learn-with-us/>

