

## Nature Journals

**Explore:** Nature journals can be used for a wide variety of purposes. Perhaps just a simple sketch of things your child notices in nature. Maybe an opportunity for writing practice. You decide! To prepare for this project, students will need to go outside and find a stick. The stick should be slightly longer than the width of your journal and be sturdy enough to hold a rubber band on two ends. (See the pictures for details) Dry sticks are best!

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**Create:** Cut out two large rectangles from the boxboard to be the front and back cover for your journal. Punch 2 holes at the top of the cover as seen in the picture. Place the back cover underneath the top cover, use a pencil to draw holes on the back cover so they'll line up with the front. Next cut your paper to fit inside. Use the same technique--put the paper under the cover so you can see the correct place to punch more holes. Carefully break the stick so it's just a bit longer than the width of your journal. Now for the tricky part! Thread the rubber band through so it will loop around the stick on both sides----viola you have a journal!

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**Reflect and Share:** Now it's time to put this journal to use. This could be used during or after a sit spot to jot down some things you noticed. Or could you record changes over time? Draw a scientific diagram? Create a mathematical chart? Take notes on specific species? Record questions? A springboard for a story? For younger students this might mostly be a drawing experience. Older students may be encouraged to draw and record with words what they have observed and questions they have. To add pages, simply undo the rubber band and in another sheet or two!

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**Materials:** Scissors, a rubber band, a hole punch, a cereal box or similar piece of box board, colored pencils/markers/crayons, paper, a pencil, a stick (see above for details!)

**Why:** Independence, Self Direction, Fine Motor, STEAM, Creativity, Sense and Knowledge of Place, Reading and writing readiness, self identity, care/awe/wonder, gratitude.

**Photos:** (Below)

