

## Wildlife Journal



Here's a great way to get outdoors where you can connect with the natural world!

Create a journal with several pages of folded paper. Then spend at least one week watching some of the animals that live in your neighborhood *without touching or disturbing them*. What species of wildlife do you see between home and school, out for a walk or riding a bike? Be sure to look up in the sky, in trees and buildings, on the ground and in the water. Write down your observations and thoughts in the journal.

**Watch a minimum of four animals for ten minutes each. For each animal, follow these steps:**

1. Name the animal and carefully describe it.
2. List all the behaviors you observe.
3. Ask yourself some of the following questions and write your answers in your journal:
  - What is the animal doing? What is its goal?
  - What time of day is it (morning, midday, evening, night)? Why is that animal active during this time of day?
  - How is the animal interacting with its environment?
  - Does the animal notice me? If yes, what is its response? Why?
  - Did I observe anything unexpected? If yes, what?
  - How does that animal make me feel (happy, excited, nervous, peaceful)? Why? Is my response based in fact or fiction? Perhaps a past experience?
  - What is beautiful or interesting about the animal?
  - Why is that animal important to the environment? What role does it play?
4. Name at least two unique physical qualities that you notice about that animal. Try to pick things that might go unnoticed with a casual glance.
5. If possible, take a photo or draw a sketch of the animal. Your images can be either artistic or used as diagrams to show specific details. By adding visuals to your journal, you will better recall the animal and the experience later.
6. Research the four animals you watched in books and other resources to discover two interesting facts about each animal that you didn't already know. Include them in your journal.
7. Share observations/information from your journal with your classmates.