

Nature Journalling

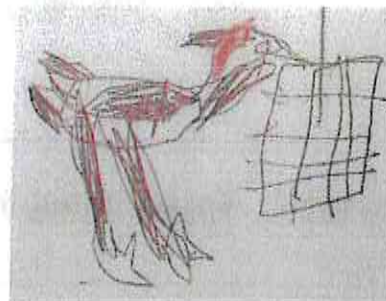


2 year olds at Alaska Forest School drawing in their journals

It is easy to keep a nature journal. Head outside each week and document the date, location, time and weather conditions. Add to this information with drawings, nature reflections or a structured activity. It is interesting for students to see the changes and patterns throughout the year.

Activities:

1. Take a walk around your school and create a map. Children should label it with names for their special places. They can make little sketches of trees, areas they like to play or where they enter the area from their house.
2. Find a plant and draw as detailed an observation as possible. Challenge a partner to find the plant.
3. Cooperate to make as many observations about a plant, tree or bug. Use your nature journal to draw a picture and label as many interesting features as possible.
4. Students find two types of trees, mushrooms, flowers, grasses, etc. Draw them side by side and note the differences and similarities.
5. Let students find a special place outside. They should draw a picture of their location and explain what makes it special for them.
6. Use the journal as a weekly record. Students can study a tree throughout the year explaining the differences they notice through words or pictures.



Books

Keeping a Nature Journal: Discover a Whole New Way of Seeing the World Around You

Storey Publishing, 2000, by Clare Walker Leslie and Charles E. Roth

How to Keep a Naturalist's Notebook

Stackpole Books, 2010, Susan Leigh Tomlinson

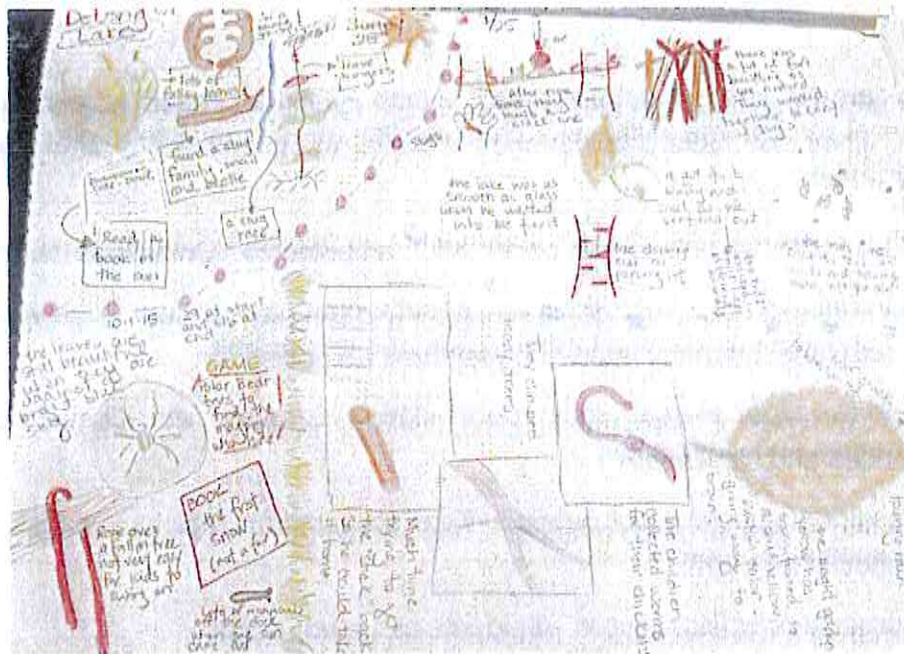
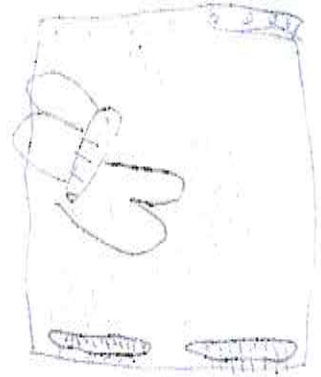
Websites

<http://fieldguides.cnps.org>

The Open World Field Guides Project is an online network of student and citizen created field guides that detail the plants and creatures of many different regions. You can contribute to this collection of nature knowledge by creating and sharing your own field guide!

http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/curriculum/owij_dl/cnps_curriculum-otwinj.pdf

A wonderful curriculum with ideas and direction on nature journaling. It also has a detailed section on how to draw different plants and animals.



A page from my Forest School journal

Lia Keller - Alaska Forest School - akforestschool@yahoo.com - Find us on Facebook
