



My Little Nature Almanac:

Equipment required: A spiral notebook & a pen, pencil or markers.

Please go outside each day for a few minutes. It can be anywhere outside: your backyard, a park, the woods, a field, a garden, or even a sidewalk. Spend at least one minute being still and quite. Slow down for a moment and

just observe your surroundings quietly without speaking.



What do you see? What do you hear? What do you smell? What do you feel?

Be sure to go slowly and pay attention to everything around you, large and small. Make observations about the natural world you see around you. When you make an interesting observation write down a



sentence about it in your My Little Nature Almanac and draw a picture next to it.

Repeat this journey every day, preferably to the same place outdoors for 5 to 30 minutes, always being sure your parents know where you are.



Start to make observation about the new things that you see. Especially the first time you see them this year. What do you notice has changed from one day to the next? Write down the date you make each new

observation for the year.

For example: The first snowfall, first BIG snowfall, the first frigid wind of winter, the first frost, the first ice. Later: the first warm wind of spring, the first buds on the trees, when the snow starts to melt. Later: the first hot sun of summer, the smell of the grass. When the maple leaves turn gold. Everybody will have their own observations and there is no right or wrong answer. There are unlimited potential observations.



Keep going every day. Just put on your boots, jacket & rain coat and have fun.

Pay special attention to the birds: What birds do you see? What do they look like? What do they sound like? Draw a picture and try and figure out what kind of bird it is. Are ducks and geese



migrating? Do you see or hear any sparrows, chickadees, robins, doves, etc.? How do you draw and identify one bird from another? Observe and ask yourself, are there stripes, are there spots, what colors are there? Do the eagles have white heads or are they spotted yearlings?

Pay special attention to the bugs, slugs, and snails: What kinds of bugs do you see? What kinds of slugs do you see? Do the slugs have spots? Draw them. Can you identify them? What about butterflies and moths? How many kinds can you find? What about bees? Can you draw them?



What about the berries? When do the blackberries get ripe? What about cherries? What about apples on the tree? How do they taste and smell?

What about the flowers? When do the crocus flowers bloom in the spring? When do the trees have flowers? What kinds of flowers can you find? Keep making these observations and writing in your journal throughout the year and see how the types of flowers change.

What about the water? When are the rivers brown or green? When is there water in the ditch? When is there mud to play in? When does the ground first get dry and dusty?



What about the frogs? Do you hear them croaking? What kinds of frogs and amphibians can you find?



What other wild animals can you find? Can you find any baby bunnies or deer? What about baby calves in the pasture?

What about the mushrooms? Are there any growing? Can you draw a picture and write down the date that you saw them?

See how long you can keep this journal going. You can do this exercise all year and then keep going or pass it down to a younger sibling or a friend. You can teach the adults about what happens each season. Teach a friend how to make a great My Little Nature Almanac. Go back the next year and compare when events occurred. Good observations! You will start to see so many things that are right in front of you but that you never even noticed before.



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