

Outdoor Learning Book Collection



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Outdoor Learning Collection

This book collection invites young readers, explorers, and their educators into the wild and wonderful world of nature, where science meets storytelling, cultural identity, and hands-on discovery. Designed to inspire observation, inquiry, and a deeper relationship with the outdoors, this kit blends field guides, experiments, creative expression, and social connection.

Readers will:

- Follow scientists and skeptics as they explore mysteries like Bigfoot and black holes.
- Learn to identify birds, ecosystems, and wilderness signs.
- Celebrate Black joy and ancestral ties to the land through powerful stories and photos.
- Build survival skills and explore forest school crafts through game-based learning.
- Engage with nature through art, experiments, and backyard adventures.

Whether it's learning to read animal tracks, designing nature-based crafts, observing celestial events, or exploring the cultural significance of being outdoors, this diverse and dynamic collection shows that nature is for everyone—curious minds, creative spirits, and future scientists alike.

Grade Level

Learners 1st- 10th grades encouraged to engage with collection in various degrees

Reading Level

Beginner - Intermediate



Contents of Kit

- **The Outdoor Scientist: The Wonder of Observing the Natural World by Temple Grandin**
The Outdoor Scientist: The Wonder of Observing the Natural World invites young readers to explore nature through science. Blending her own childhood experiences with fascinating facts, Grandin introduces scientists from fields like geology, astrophysics, and oceanography. With 40 hands-on projects, this book inspires kids to observe, experiment, and discover the wonders of the natural world—from the backyard to the stars.
- **The Search for Sasquatch by Laura Krantz**
The Search for Sasquatch blends science, skepticism, and curiosity in a fascinating exploration of Bigfoot. When journalist Krantz learns her distant cousin—a respected anthropologist—dedicated his life to studying Sasquatch, she sets out on her own investigation. Combining myth, biology, and the scientific method, this book encourages young readers to think critically, weigh evidence, and keep an open mind. A captivating read that challenges what we think we know while exploring why the mystery of Bigfoot still matters.
- **Nature Swagger by Rue Mapp**
Nature Swagger by Rue Mapp is a vibrant celebration of Black joy, heritage, and connection to the outdoors, featuring powerful stories, essays, and photography from Outdoor Afro contributors. This inspiring collection encourages readers to reclaim space in nature and deepen their relationship with the natural world.
- **Get Eclipsed by Pat & Fred Espenak**
The complete guide to the American Solar eclipse.
- **Nature Anatomy by Julia Rothman**
Nature Anatomy combines art and science in this exciting and educational guide to the structure, function, and personality of the natural world. Explore the anatomy of a jellyfish, the inside of a volcano, monarch butterfly migration, how sunsets work, and much more. Rothman's whimsical illustrations are paired with interactive activities that encourage curiosity and inspire you to look more closely at the world all around you.
- **How to Read the Wilderness by The Natural Study Guild**
How to Read the Wilderness is a richly illustrated guide that teaches readers to recognize plants, animals, and ecosystems across North America. Drawing from decades of beloved field guides, it's a timeless companion for anyone seeking a deeper connection with the natural world.



Contents of Kit (cont...)

- **Birds of Oregon Field Guide by Stan Tekiela**

Birds of Oregon Field Guide makes birdwatching easy with 130 color-coded species profiles, complete with photos, range maps, and facts tailored to Oregon. It's a user-friendly tool for quickly identifying local birds in the field.

- **Forest School Activity Cards by Jane Worroll & Peter Houghton**

Forest School Activity Cards is a pocket-sized deck featuring 48 outdoor games, crafts, and skill-building activities designed to inspire nature-based play and learning. Divided into four themed suits, it's perfect for families, educators, and Forest School leaders looking to engage kids with the natural world.



Learning Extensions

STEAM Connections: Science

Learning Objectives:

- Cultivate scientific thinking through hands-on experiments and nature-based exploration.
- Understand key concepts in various scientific disciplines, including geology, astrophysics, and oceanography.
- Develop observation skills by exploring nature in everyday environments like backyards, parks, and beaches.
- Learn how to apply the scientific method to real-world questions, such as bird migration or stone skipping.

Career Connections:

- **Environmental Scientist** – Analyzing ecosystems and environmental impacts.
- **Geologist** – Studying earth processes and rock formations.
- **Inventor/Engineer** – Using curiosity and experimentation to solve problems.
- **Naturalist** – Educating others about the natural world through observation and research.
- **Astronomer** – Studying stars and planetary systems through observation and data collection.

Essential Employability Skills:

- Inquiry
- Critical thinking
- Communication
- Problem-solving
- Curiosity
- Initiative
- Application of the scientific method in practical settings



Resources and Accessibility

Safety Guidelines

- **Avoid Food and Drinks Near Books** - Encourage clean, dry reading areas to prevent spills, stains, or water damage.
- **Handle Books Gently** - Model how to turn pages carefully, avoid bending spines, and store books upright or flat.
- **Use Clean Hands** - Have students wash or sanitize hands before handling shared books to keep materials in good condition.
- **Designate a Safe Storage Spot** - Store books in a sturdy, dry, and clearly labeled bin or tote to protect them from wear and tear between uses.

Accessibility

- **Use Book Stands or Holders** - Provide angled book holders or clipboards to support independent reading for students with mobility or motor challenges.
- **Pair Audio with Print** - Use audiobooks or teacher-read recordings when available to support students with reading disabilities or visual impairments.
- **Incorporate Read-Alouds and Peer Reading** - Offer opportunities for shared or buddy reading to help students who benefit from auditory learning or support with decoding.
- **Offer Visual Aids and Discussion Prompts** - Supplement books with images, models, or key vocabulary cards to reinforce understanding and engagement.

Library Catalog



Library Resources



Feedback

QR to feedback survey

