

BLOSSOM & ROOT

NATURE STUDY // YEAR 1

Wonders of the Earth & Sky

PARENT GUIDE



YEAR 1

Rocks and Minerals // Landforms and Bodies of Water // Weather and Seasons // Erosion



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Editing by Jason Garner

Blossom & Root

Nature Study

Year 1:

Wonders of the Earth & Sky

A Complete Nature Study Curriculum

Grade 1

Blossom & Root Nature Study
Year 1: Wonders of the Earth & Sky

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Project 1, Part A: Book of Firsts

About the Project:

The "Book of Firsts" is a wonderful way for your child to track their outdoor discoveries throughout the year. Every time they notice something new or exciting going on outside, they will record it in their "Book of Firsts" with a drawing, a note, and the date and location of the discovery.

Here is an example:

"Saw the first yellow Aspen leaf on Morgan Trail in Evergreen. 09/30/18."

(Child would draw a picture of the leaf they saw or they would glue in a photograph they took of the leaf.)

One of the most beautiful ways to enjoy a "Book of Firsts" is to compare each year's discoveries to the previous year. Next year, when your child builds their second grade "Book of Firsts" they may notice that the red leaves fell earlier, the daffodils came up a week later, or the first snowfall was on the exact same date.

How to Make a Book of Firsts

Purchase an inexpensive sketchbook, or assemble one yourself by binding blank printer paper together into a 3-ring folder or binder. Have your child spend an afternoon decorating the cover for their book. Be sure to keep the book in an easily-accessible location, next to some pencils, watercolors, or other art supplies. You may also wish to keep some local bird, flower, and nature guides in the same location for easy reference.

Throughout the year, anytime your child makes a discovery, remind them to add it to their "Book of Firsts."

Projects

Project Timing:

Begin "Project 1, Part A: Book of Firsts" as early in the first grade year as possible. Your child will be adding to this project throughout the entire year.

Supplies You Will Need:

- An inexpensive sketchbook, or white printer paper in a 3-ring binder or folder
- Sketching supplies (pencils, watercolors, erasers, etc.)
- Local nature guides
- A place to store the Book of Firsts where it can be easily reached

Boulder-Basking

Boulder-Bathing:

Read to your child: *Have you ever watched a cat sleeping in a sunny spot in the house? Or maybe you've watched lizards perch upon rocks outside? Boulder-basking, or resting on a sunny rock for awhile, can be very relaxing and fun!*

This week, you will find a sunny rock to perch upon together. Climb up and get settled. Soak up the rays of the sun, close your eyes and listen to the sounds around you. How does the rock feel below you? Is it warm or cool, smooth or bumpy? Do you enjoy boulder-basking? Would it be different if you were in a hot desert or a cool rain forest? Would it be better on a sharp piece of lava rock or a smoothed and weathered piece of marble?

Enjoy your boulder-basking experience, then head home to record it in your nature notebook.

Nature Notebook:

Read to your child: *Make a drawing of your boulder-basking experience. Who was there? What was the weather like? What did your rock look like? Did you feel like an ancient lizard, basking in the sun?*

Once your child has recorded their day, either with a drawing or with a photograph that they glue or tape into their notebook, transcribe their words about it below. Be sure to date their entry.

Nature Study Prompt

Where to Go:

You will want to find a spot with large rocks to perch upon. This can be anywhere: a forest, a meadow, a city park, or decorative boulders outside of the dentist's office.

Safety First! Be sure to supervise your child as they climb and perch on the rocks.

Supplies You Will Need:

- A large rock to perch upon

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STUDENT NOTEBOOK



This book belongs to:

YEAR 1

Rocks and Minerals // Landforms and Bodies of Water // Weather and Seasons // Erosion

Date:

Boulder-Basking



Notes:
