

# Nature Journaling Challenge 8



Spring is here!!! The days are slowly getting longer, and the air temperatures are getting warmer. We hope you'll enjoy looking for signs of spring outside!

If you can, *before* looking at any of the other handouts, **set up your nature journal**. This month, make a **prediction** (this word sounds like “pre-dict-shun”) about what signs of spring you think you’ll see. A prediction is a guess you make about what will happen, sometimes based on information you already know – what do you remember from last spring that might help you guess what you’ll see changing with plants and animals this spring? What do you think you’ll see that will be different from January or February?

Along your journey, let’s use our naturalist skills to be **quiet** and **respectful** to wildlife and other people enjoying the outdoors! So much is changing outside, it can be hard to be quiet – and animals are making noise too! But the quieter we are, the more likely we are to be able to watch animals without scaring them, and to notice little changes in the plant life around us. Being respectful to wildlife means that we give them plenty of space, enjoy watching them from a distance, and that we don’t follow animals or try to catch them. It can be stressful for them if we get too close. We can be respectful to people and wildlife by leaving our discoveries (like flowers, feathers, and nests) behind for animals to use and other people to enjoy, by keeping our pets on a leash, and taking any trash we create with us when we leave. Thanks so much for your help!

**After you set up your nature journal**, take a look at the “**What’s Happening in Spring**” handout to learn more about seasonal changes! The **Spring Outdoor Scavenger Hunt** sheet will give you some ideas for things you can look for that we might not have seen in winter. Don’t worry if you can’t find everything! There will also be things that you notice that aren’t on the scavenger hunt sheet.

**Next**, head outside to **record the weather data!** Then, grab your **scavenger hunt** sheet and see what you can find for signs of spring! You can record your observations in your nature journal as you go or can record them after you come back inside. **Make sure to fill in the second part of your journal**, noting whether your predictions came true! Did you see what you thought you’d see? Do you have an idea why you did or didn’t see it?

We look forward to exploring more with you in May!

