



4-H Adventures in Nature

Animal (Fauna) Challenges

Look deep into nature, and then you
will understand everything better.

~ Albert Einstein

This challenge is all about animals! See what you can learn about wildlife as you explore in your area!

What Do Animals Need?

All animals have basic needs, like food, shelter (cover), water, and space. Visit your favorite park, forest, or natural space, and see if you can observe any animals or signs that animals have been in the area. Use the [Animal Needs Chart](#) to record what you find. (This activity was adapted from the [4-H Wildlife Science 1](#) manual. For more information, contact your county 4-H staff.)

Let's Go Bird Watching!

Get outside and go bird watching! Sit quietly in a safe, comfortable place where you think birds might spend time. As you sit, use your eyes and ears to try and locate birds. Use binoculars if possible. Take photos or draw pictures of the birds you see. Record when and where you saw them, how big they were, what they were doing, and any interesting information. Then, try to identify what kind of birds they were. You can use the [All About Birds](#) Bird ID, or ask a knowledgeable friend for help. (This activity was adapted from the [4-H Wildlife Science 2](#) manual. For more information, contact your county 4-H staff.)

Interesting Insects

Try catching insects in your yard by making a pitfall trap. You will need the following supplies: a paper or foam cup, a paperclip, bait (bread, fruit, lunch meat), a piece of cardboard, and small rocks.

Bend open the paper clip and use it to punch a few holes in the bottom of your cup. With an adult's permission, pick a safe spot in the yard and dig a hole the size of your cup. Set your cup in it so that the top of the cup is even with the surface of the ground, and place your bait in the cup. Put the cardboard over the top of it, using small rocks to elevate the board above ground. Take a photo or draw a picture of your trap when you first set it up. Leave your trap out for a day, then carefully remove the board to see what you caught.

(This activity was adapted from [Teaming with Insects – Entomology – Level 1](#). For more information, contact your county 4-H staff.)

For more information about 4-H project manuals or other Adventure in Nature activities, contact Judy Schmidt, schmid7@illinois.edu or Emily Schoenfelder, eshoe@illinois.edu.



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