

Nearby Nature

5 WAYS TO SHAKE UP YOUR QUARANTINE WALKS

THE NATURALIST WALK

Naturalist walks are done with the intention to notice and wonder about the world around you. Using a shifted focus will help you start to see new and interesting things on a route you have taken fifty times. Try asking some of these questions as you walk:

- Where are plants growing?
- Why is the plant growing there?
- How did the plant get here?
- Who lives in this tree?
- How old do you think the tree is?
- What does this animal eat?



SCAVENGER HUNT

Need a little more guidance on your walk? Try out a scavenger hunt. You can find hundreds of these online, start with the one attached, or make your own!

SENSORY OBSERVATION

Find a space with some natural elements. It can be a forest, a backyard, a park, anything! Set out a 3ft x 3ft space. Spend 30 seconds to 1 minute observing the space focusing on what you see making note of as many things as possible. Now do the same with what you smell, touch, and hear. Make note of any new things you observe.



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NATURAL ART

No craft supplies? No problem! Nature offers some pretty amazing craft tools. Try creating some of these works of art using only natural items such as seeds, acorns, pinecones, sticks, leaves, and flowers

Art Challenges:

- Self portrait
- Your favorite animal
- Something abstract

NATURE SKETCHES

Before always having a camera in your pocket, scientists used drawings to document plants and animals as they conducted observations.

Find Your Specimen

Collect three different shaped leaves. Pick your favorite. Take 30 seconds to observe the leaf. Noting the shape, the edges, colors, veins, and other aspects that stand out to you.



Start Basic

Start by drawing the general shape of your leaf. Is it shaped like a star? An oval? A heart? Next draw the veins of the leaf. Are the veins all going the same direction? Do they spread out like your fingers from your palm? Are there a lot? A little?

Document the "Different"

Next make note of anything that looks "out of the ordinary". Does the leaf look like someone took a few bites out of it? Are there any growths on the leaf that look out of place? Do the colors change across the leaf? Draw them!

Make Notes

No colored pencils? No problem. One of the unique parts of scientific drawing is the notes that scientists write around them. Using arrows and your own words, point out parts of the leaf you want to make sure are noted. Is the leaf red? Is it dark green on one side and a lighter green on the other? Are there too many veins to count? Is there a rip in the leaf? The possibilities are endless!