

# Teacher's Guide

## *“Discover Nature”*



### Grade Level:

Pre-K

### Pre-K Content Standards

### Reference:

SD1b, SD1d, SD2a

### Summary:

Students focus on exploration of the wide variety of living things in the natural world.

### Objective:

There are differences between the natural and man-made world. To understand and learn about things in nature, you must use your senses to observe the natural world.

### Essential Questions

When reviewing “Discover Nature” with your students, begin by introducing the concepts of things found in the classroom versus things they see outside. Then discuss natural vs. man made objects. Also, introduce the five senses.

- What are some items are in the classroom?
- What are some items that are found outside?
- How are those items different?
- What are your five main senses?
- Are the things you hear (see, smell) different inside than they are outside?

Feel free to keep a list of questions from the students to bring to the naturalist.

### Vocabulary

- 📖 *Nature* - the outdoor world that consists of things that are not artificial
- 📖 *Senses* - the ability to taste, smell, touch, see and hear
- 📖 *Observe* - to use senses to learn

### Pre-Visit Activities

- 📖 **Read** from the suggested reading list
- 📖 **Be a Detective** - Search your school inside and outside for items that are made by people and items that are found in nature. They can draw pictures or cut out pictures from magazines of what they find. Are there any items from nature found inside?
- 📖 **Egg Carton Surprise!** - Have each student save and bring in an egg carton from home. Have each student fill six of the spaces (on one side) with items not from nature. Have examples and they can choose what they would like - toothpicks, cotton balls, string, marbles, coins, or pom poms. Go outside and have them find things in nature that feel the same as the man made objects. Have each child then share.

## Post visit activities

- 🌿 **Review the major concepts and vocabulary.**
- 🌿 **Nature Texture Cards** Collect items outside in nature, such as leaves, sticks, pine needles, and seeds. Have students glue these items to card stock to create their own texture cards.
- 🌿 **Color Hike** Collect different “nature” colors in paint samples from your local home improvement store. Include shades of green, browns, and colors that correspond to what is currently seen outside. In the classroom give each student a color and take a hike around the school. Have them find something in nature on the hike that is close to the color on the paint sample. They can either share with the class while on the hike or share when they return to class. Remind them not to pick up anything while hiking and always leave nature outside.

## Suggesting Reading

I See Animals Hiding By Jim Arnosky

What Good is a Tree? By Larry Dane Brimner

In the Small, Small Pond By Denise Fleming

In the Tall, Tall Grass By Denise Fleming

Find the Bird (Hide and Seek) By Cate Foley

Under One Rock: Bugs, Slugs and Other Ughs By Anthony D. Fredericks

Around the Pond: Who's Been Here? By Lindsay Barrett George

What's Under the Log? By Anne Hunter

From Seed to Dandelion (How Things Grow) By Jan Kottke

How to be a Nature Detective By Millicent E. Selsam

## Suggested Websites

<http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/amaze.html>

<http://www.sharingnature.com/nature-activities/>

# Further Investigations!



Draw a picture of an animal you saw with the Chattahoochee Nature Center!  
What senses does your animal use?

