

For the Love of Prairie's

PRAIRIE EXPLORER



EXPLORING WILD THINGS



When you think of wild things, what does it bring to mind...tigers? Lions? Bears?

Are birds, insects and squirrels wild things?

Wild things are animals and plants that do not need people to help them survive.

Many of us think we can only find wild things in the mountains or in a forest. But it does not matter where we live, there are wild things all around us. They live in the country and in cities. They come in all shapes and sizes. But best of all, wild things are interesting!

As long as there is good habitat, wild things will make themselves at home. Good habitat includes plenty of food and water, suitable shelter, and enough space to live.

Home can be a tree along the street, a crack in the sidewalk, the school yard, or your backyard. Some wild things will even make their home in our homes!

But many times, we forget to stop and observe the interesting things that are around us. We get busy texting, talking to our friends, or thinking about homework, and we forget to observe what is happening around us.

Author Peter M. Leschak said -

All of us are watchers - of television, of clocks...but few are observers.

Everyone is looking, not many are "observing".



Would you like to learn the skills that explorers use to observe the wild things around you? Then, follow the fun, easy steps on the next page to become a great explorer of wild things!



Follow these steps to become a Great Explorer of Wild Things!

Step #1 - I Notice

To be a great explorer, you need to learn to closely observe. We observe by noticing with our senses of sight, touch, hearing, smell and taste. Please do not taste anything unless you are told to by an adult! Go outside and find an object, like a leaf, that looks interesting to you. Observe it closely using your senses and write your observations by completing the following sentence as many times that you can.

I notice.....

I notice.....

I notice.....

Hint 1: A true observation is to notice things or describe the object. An example is "I noticed that it is green with yellow bumps all over the surface."

Hint 2: Saying "I notice it is a leaf" is not an observation if you already know that it is a leaf!

Hint 3: Saying that it smells gross is your opinion, not an observation. It might smell good to another person. Try to explain what it smells like.

Tip #2 - I Wonder

Now that you have made your observations, what do you wonder about your object? Complete the sentence below as many times that you can.

I wonder....

I wonder....

I wonder....

Tip #3 - It reminds me of

After you have written all your "I wonders", write what the object reminds you of.

It reminds me of....

It reminds me of....

It reminds me of....

Tip #4 - Share your observations with a family member or friend!

