

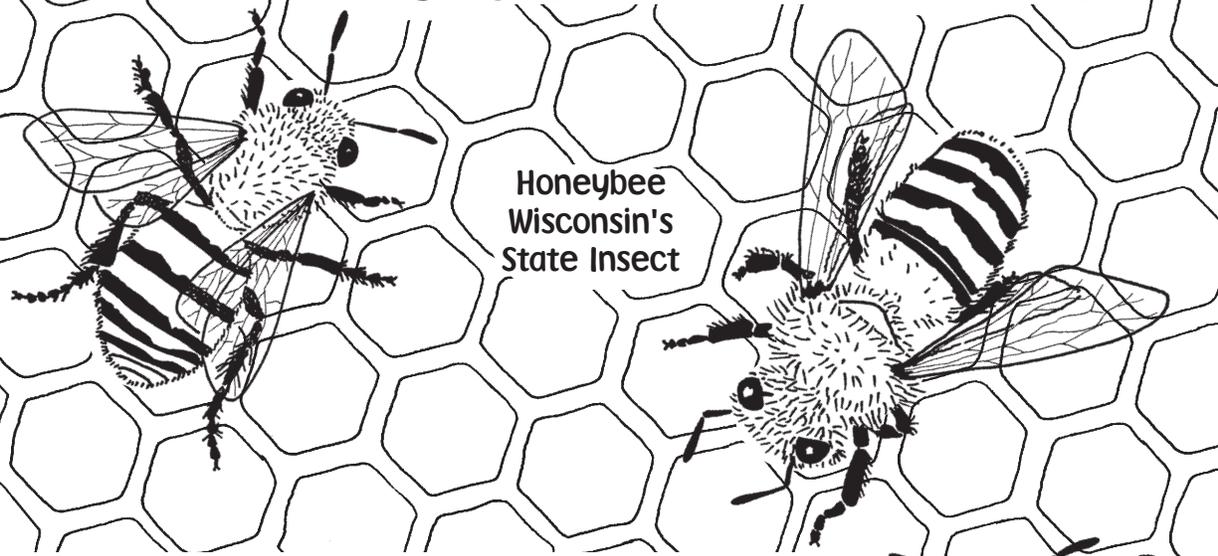


Wisconsin Explorers Kids ages 3-5



Exploring the Extremes

Honeybee
Wisconsin's
State Insect



_____ your name

_____ date

_____ name of park

Have fun! Explore! Collect a patch!

Grown-ups, get ready to spend some quality time outdoors with your favorite preschooler! As an added bonus, your child can earn a colorful patch. Just check off explorations here or on the evaluation form as you do them.

- We looked for things that fly in the sky (page 4).
- We turned over a rock (pages 6-7).
- We made soil print animals (page 8).
- We took a night hike (page 9).
- We played hide-and-seek (page 11).
- We followed deer tracks (pages 12-13).
- We followed a scent trail (page 16).
- We played a smelling game (page 17).
- We played fox and rabbit (page 18).
- We took a listening walk (page 19).



Explorer Packs Available!
Borrow a pack filled with exploring tools. Ask park staff.

To earn a patch:

- Complete 5 to 10 of the explorations listed above.
- Attend a nature program or take a nature hike.
- Pick up litter or clean up your campsite (page 14).
- Fill out the evaluation form (found on colored center pages of this booklet).

To get a patch (choose one method):

- Give your evaluation form to a park staff person and tell him/her what you did.
- Visit the Wisconsin Explorers website. Go to <www.wiparks.net> and search for "Wisconsin Explorers." Complete and submit the evaluation form following the directions on the website. The patch will arrive by mail in 2-4 weeks.
- Mail the evaluation form, your name and address, and a letter or drawing telling about your explorations to: Wisconsin Explorers PR/6, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. The patch will arrive in 2-4 weeks.

**For more information, call (608) 266-2181
or email DNRWisconsinParks@Wisconsin.gov**

The Wisconsin Explorers program is an interpretive program of the Wisconsin State Park System made possible by the generous support of the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin and the following donors: Bong Naturalist Association, Friends of Buckhorn State Park, Friends of Devil's Lake State Park, Friends of Hartman Creek State Park, Friends of Interstate Park, Friends of Kettle Moraine, Inc., Friends of Kohler-Andrae State Park, Friends of New Glarus Woods State Park, Friends of Rock Island State Park, Friends of Whitefish Dunes State Park, Menasha Corporation Foundation, R.D. & Linda Peters Foundation, and one very generous anonymous donor.



Up in the Sky!

Do you wish that you could fly high in the sky? Would you like to be a dandelion seed floating on a gentle summer breeze? Or would you rather be a honeybee buzzing as fast as you can from flower to flower?



Ladybugs and butterflies,
Buzzing bees up in the sky.
Hummingbirds that zip and zap,
Soaring hawks that barely flap.
Many animals can be found,
In the sky — up off the ground.

Grown-ups

Imitate flying things

Watch how different animals move through the air. Invite your preschooler to soar like a hawk, flit from flower to flower like a hummingbird, or buzz in a straight line like a bee.

Experiment with seeds

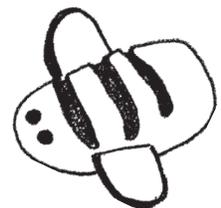
Let your preschooler test which seeds can “fly” and which can’t. Dandelion seeds float, but what happens when you throw an acorn up in the air?

Collect “flying” litter

When litter goes flying out of your hands, set a good example and chase after it. Teach your preschooler that garbage belongs in secure garbage cans.

Eat honeybees

Mix together 1/2 cup peanut butter (or substitute) and 1 tablespoon honey. Stir in 1/3 cup nonfat dry milk and 3 tablespoons crushed graham crackers or oat cereal. Shape tablespoons of this mixture into bee-shaped ovals. Place on waxed paper. Dip a toothpick in cocoa powder and press lightly across the top of the bees to make stripes. Use the tip of toothpick to make eyes. Stick in sliced almonds for wings. Chill for 30 minutes.



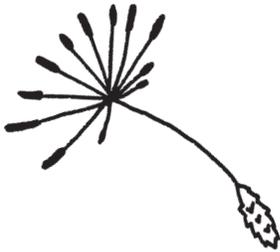
Read a story

Are You a Bee? by Judy Allen
In the Trees, Honey Bees by Lori Mortensen

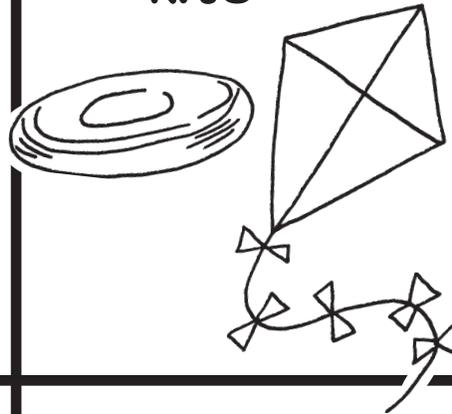
Look for things that fly in the sky

Take a hike and look up. Lie on a blanket and watch the sky. Try to mark a whole row or column (like Tic-Tac-Toe).

seed with parachute



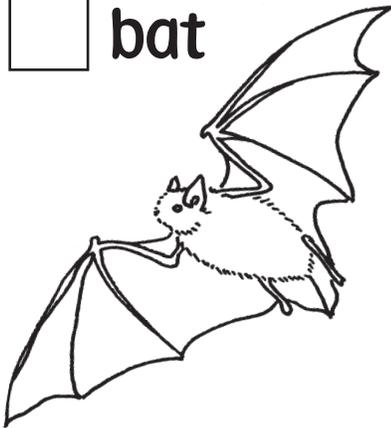
frisbee or kite



honeybee
Wisconsin's state insect!



bat



What did you see?

seed with wings



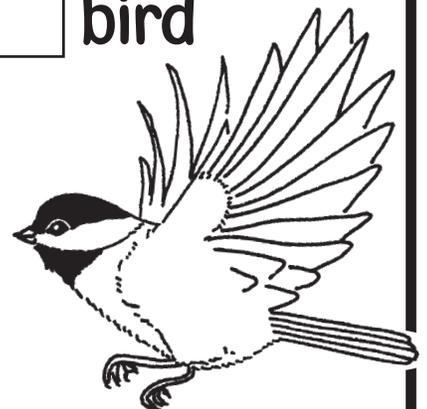
person
in an airplane,
helicopter, or
hot air balloon



mosquito



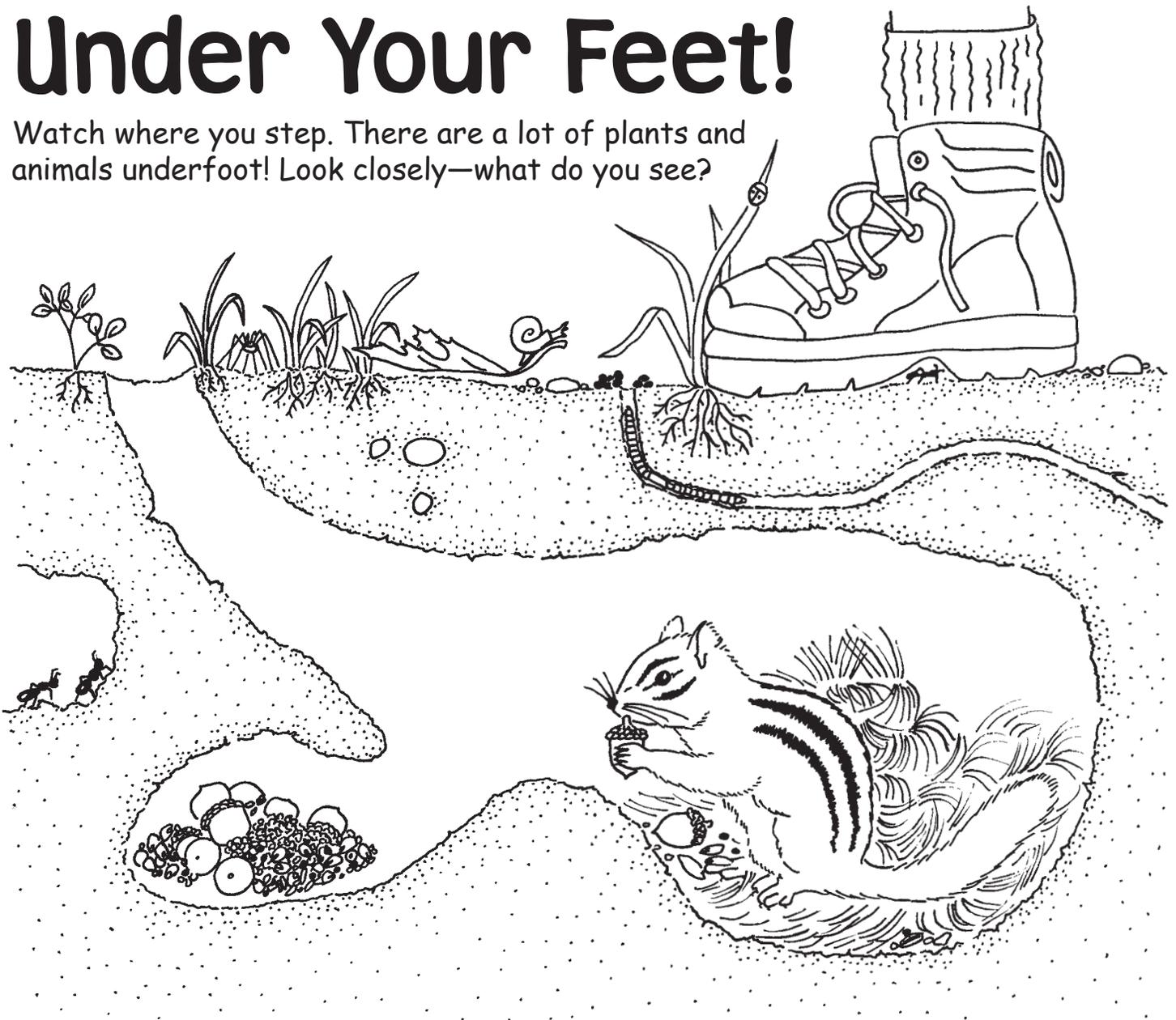
bird



Exploring the Extremes . . .

Under Your Feet!

Watch where you step. There are a lot of plants and animals underfoot! Look closely—what do you see?



Grown-ups

Put the “roof” back!

After looking under logs and rocks, show your preschooler how to leave nature the way you found it. Remind each other that you are peeking into animals' homes. Be good visitors!

Build extremely crazy animals

Use pebbles, twigs, woodchips, and other found objects to build crazy animals. Can you make a spider or millipede? Take photos of your creations and then return the pieces to nature.

Count the number of legs

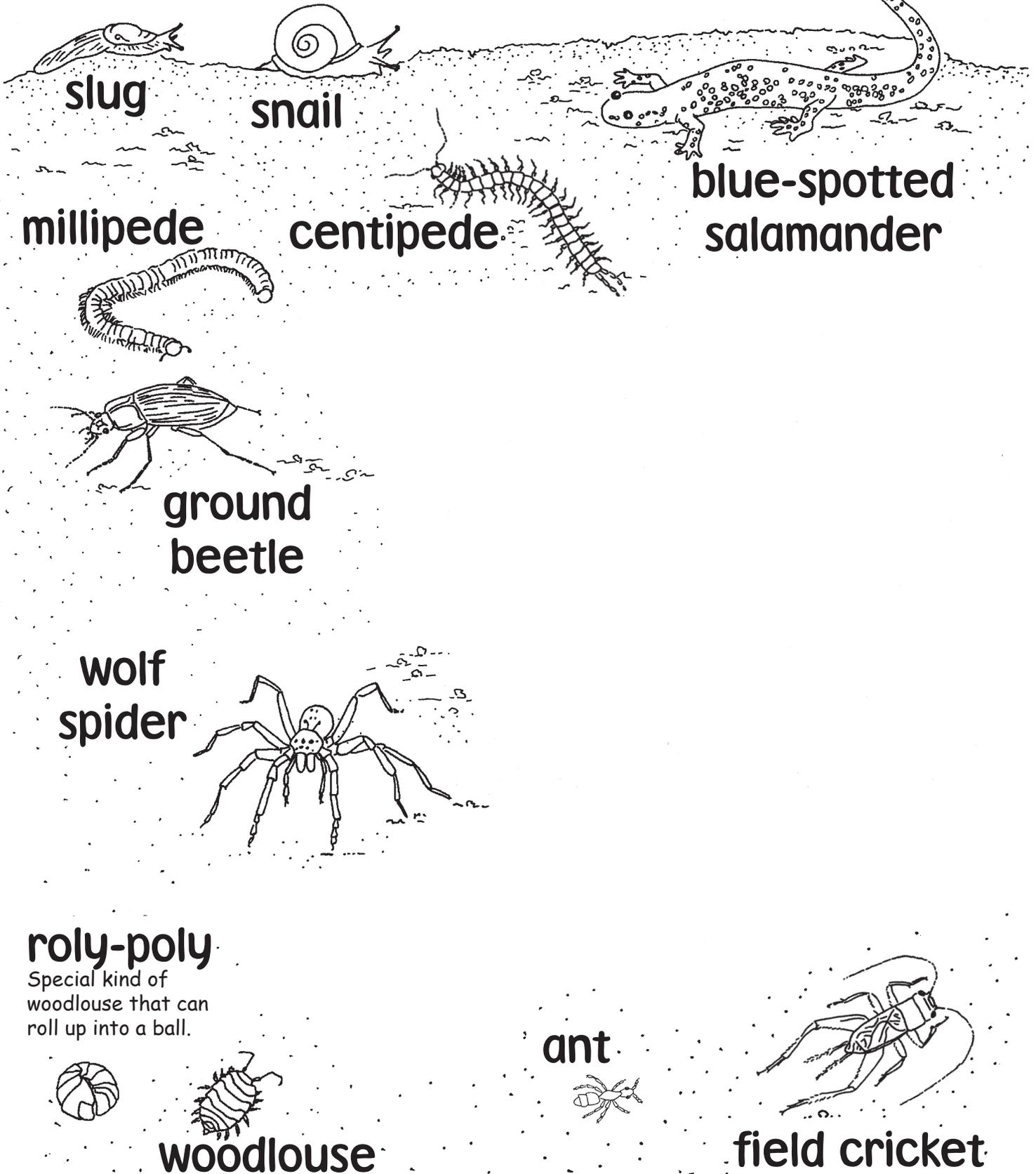
As you find animals, make a game of counting their legs. The number of legs an animal has can help you figure out what kind of animal it is. Insects have 6 legs, spiders and their relatives have 8 legs, snails and slugs have 1 foot, and worms don't have any legs at all!

Read a story

Under One Rock: Bugs, Slugs and other Ughs
by Anthony Fredericks

Turn over a rock

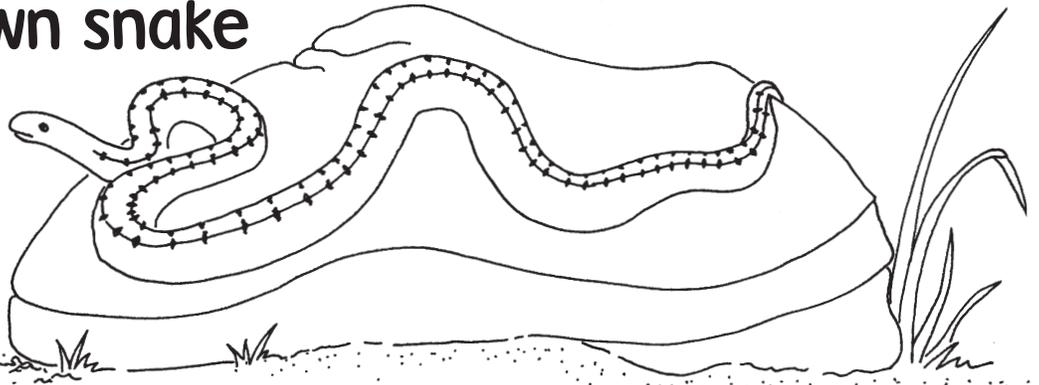
Many animals hide under rocks, logs, and leaves. In the summer, it is cooler, darker, and wetter under there. Circle or color the animals you find.



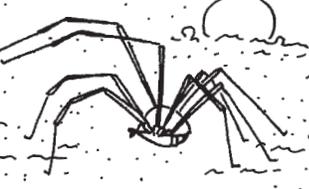
toad



brown snake



worm



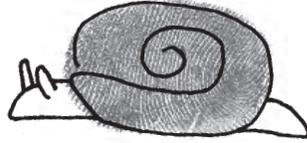
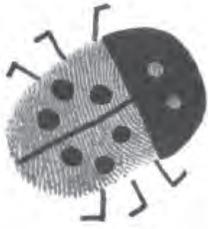
daddy
longlegs

**Draw pictures of
things you find.**

These drawings are about
the size of the real animals.

Make soil print animals

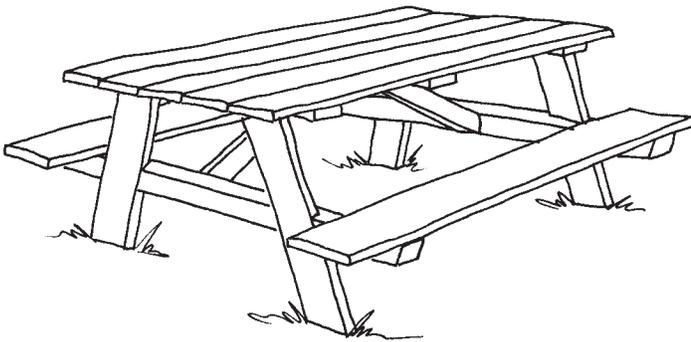
Now that you have seen some of the animals that live under things, you can make your own. Press your thumb or finger in damp soil and print it on this page. When the print is dry, add legs, eyes, or antennae.



Exploring the Extremes . . .

During the Night!

Have you ever wondered what happens in the park while you are sleeping? Who do you think visits your picnic table? Finish this picture to show what happens.



Grown-ups

Take a night hike

Hike a trail during the day so that it is familiar. Then hike the same trail as it is getting dark.

Watch night fall

Find an open meadow or a quiet spot near a lake. Take a blanket, snack, and mosquito repellent. Who will see the first bat, hear the first cricket or frog, or find the first star?

Eat breakfast at night

Eat cereal and milk for a bedtime snack. Talk about how some animals have been sleeping all day. As the sun sets, they are just waking up for breakfast!

Read a story

Where are the Night Animals? by Mary Ann Fraser

Night Animals by Gianna Marino

Make animal shadows

Get a flashlight and shine the light on a tent side or blank wall. Experiment with different hand shapes. Add leaves, dead pine needles, and grass. What animals can you make? Say the animals' names in Spanish.



goose
ganso
(GAHN-so)



snail
caracol
(kah-rah-COAL)



rabbit
conejo
(co-NAY-hoe)



deer
venado
(beh-NAH-dough)



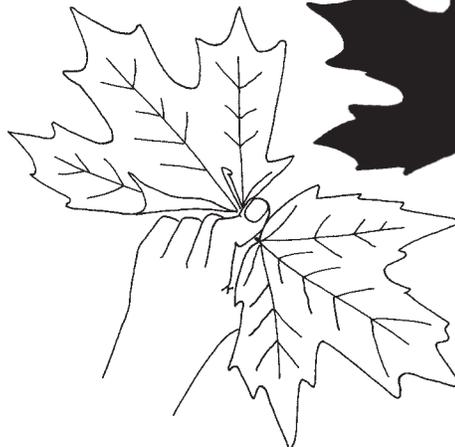
hawk
halcon
(al-CONE)



porcupine
puercoespín
(pwer-koe-es-PIN)



coyote
coyote
(koe-YO-tay)

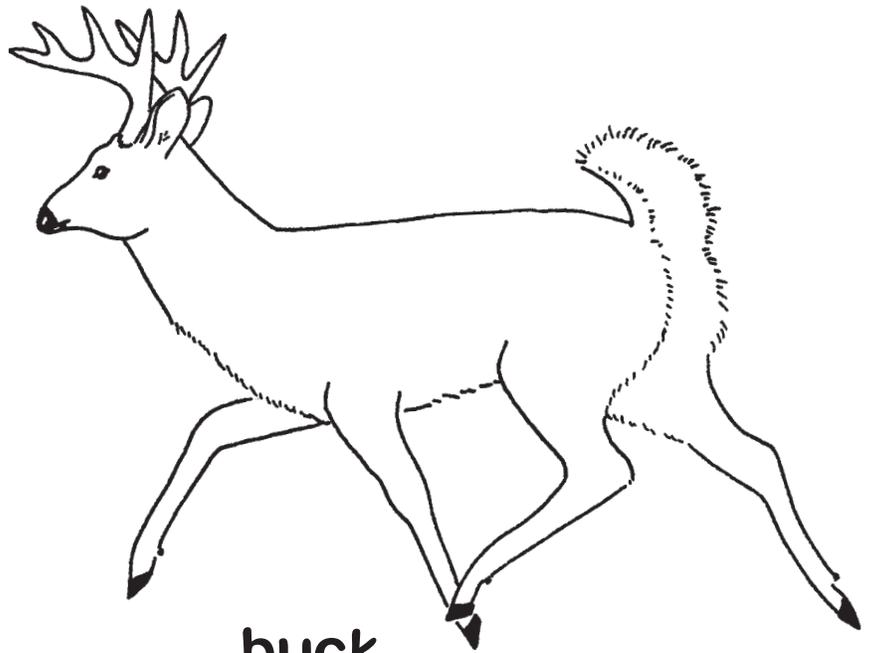


butterfly
mariposa
(mah-ree-POE-sah)

Exploring the Extremes . . .

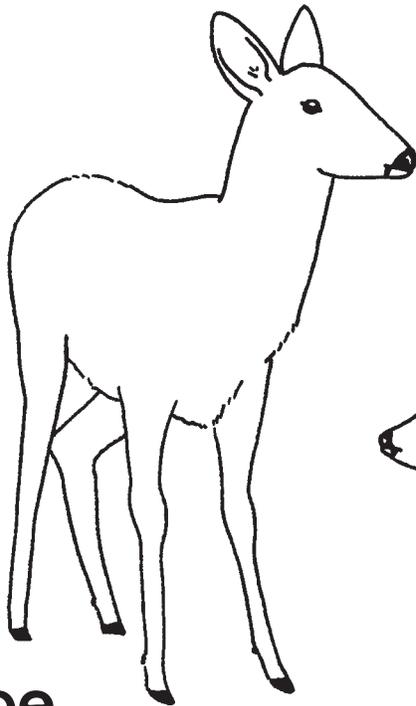
As a Deer

Have you ever seen Wisconsin's state wildlife animal? Where do you think these big animals hide?



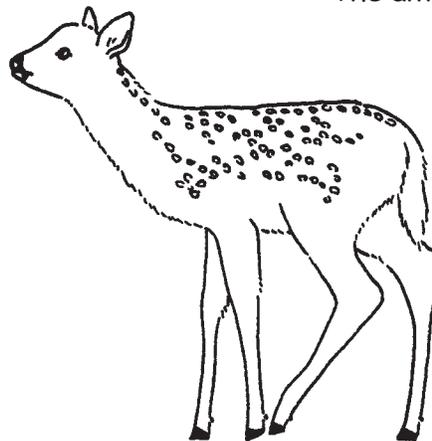
buck

Boy deer are called bucks. Bucks start growing antlers in spring. The antlers fall off in winter.



doe

Girl deer are called does. All deer have reddish-brown coats in summer and grayish-brown coats in winter.



fawn

Young deer are called fawns. Fawns are born in May and June. White spots on their brown coats help them hide. They lose their spots when they grow their winter coats.

Grown-ups

Walk with antlers

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to walk with antlers? Find some downed twigs with wide branches. Have your preschooler hold the twigs on top of her head while she walks. How hard is it to walk around with antlers?

Play hide-and-peek

Find a safe place to play. Take turns pretending to be deer hiding in the woods. Talk about how our clothes make it easy or hard for us to hide. How do the colors of animals' coats help them hide?

Watch from a distance

If you find a fawn or other baby animal that appears to be abandoned, it probably isn't. Wild parents often leave their well-camouflaged young alone, returning to feed them regularly. Unless you have compelling evidence, you should assume a wild animal baby is not an orphan.

Read a story

Fawn at Woodland Way by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld and Joel Snyder
Imogene's Antlers by David Small

Follow the trail

Pretend to be a fawn. Your mother used her front foot to push you down in the tall grass so you would be hidden. You tried to stay still, but you heard an interesting noise and you got up and wandered away. Follow the tracks and do the things the fawn did. . . .



Lie down in the tall grass.
Lie very still until you see or
hear something interesting.
Follow the sound.



This place smells familiar.
This must be where your
mother takes naps. And look,
there is where she went to
the bathroom!

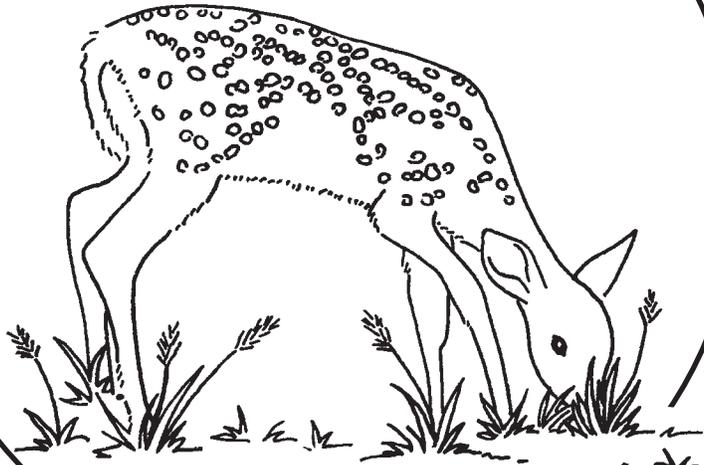


Now you smell
something
interesting.
If you don't
know what it
is, stomp your
little foot!

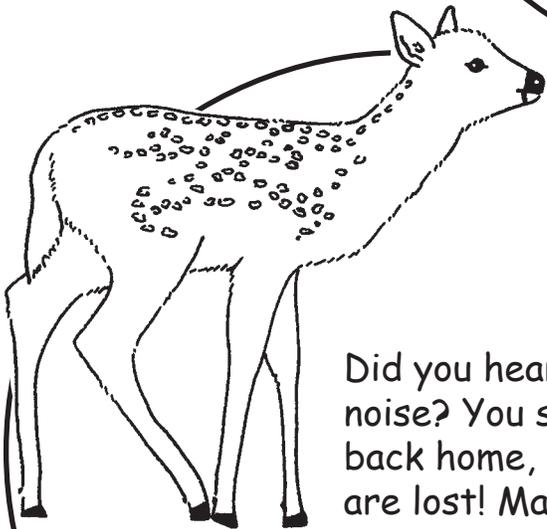
Follow real tracks

After you follow
the tracks on these
pages, find a trail and
look for real deer
tracks to follow.

You're getting a little hungry. Look around for something to nibble on. (Just pretend!)



Did you hear that loud noise? You should go back home, but you are lost! Make a sad bleating sound like a calf. Maybe your mother will hear you!



There is your mother! Next time she "tells" you to stay put, remember how scared and hungry you were when you wandered off alone.

At Your Campsite!

You don't have to go far to find a place to explore. Help keep your campsite a wild place that is clean and safe for people and animals.

Pick it up!

Clean up your campsite, a picnic area, or a trail. While you work, sing this song to the tune of *If You're Happy and You Know It*.

If you see a piece of litter, pick it up.

If you see a piece of litter, pick it up.

You will make the world look better

If you pick up all the litter.

If you see a piece of litter, pick it up!

Grown-ups

Search for traces

Can you find anything that someone else left behind? Gum wrappers, tire tracks, and marks on trees can be clues to who has visited this place before you. Who do you think it was?

Leave no traces

When you leave a campsite or picnic spot, always take a minute to stop and look around. Ask out loud, "Did we leave anything behind? Do you think anyone will know that we were here?"

Play What If?

Make up silly or serious questions to help your preschooler develop thinking skills. Ask: "What would you do if. . .

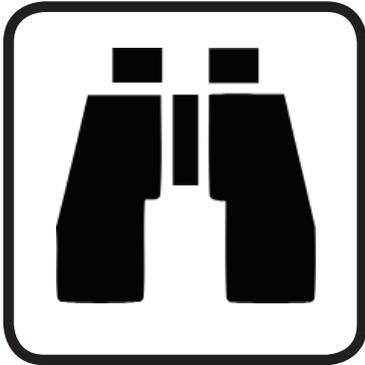
- You saw a rhinoceros in the park?
- You saw someone chasing a fawn?
- You stepped in dog poop?
- You suddenly grew wings?
- Your brother threw trash on the ground?"

Read a story

When We Go Camping by Margaret Ruurs
Quiet Night by Marilyn Singer & John Manders

Be a good visitor

When you camp in a beautiful place, remember that you are staying overnight in someone else's home. The plants and animals that live here need you to be a good visitor. Color the things you do when you are camping.



wildlife

Watch wild animals from a distance.



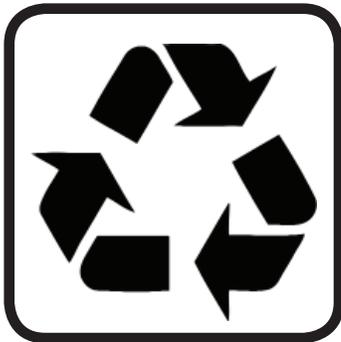
trails

Stay on trails to keep from squishing plants.



bikes

Ride only on bike paths and roads.



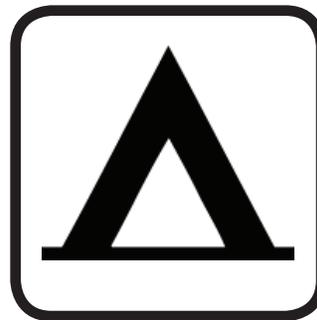
recycle

Recycle cans, glass, plastic, and paper.



firewood

Buy firewood when you arrive at the park; don't bring it from home.



quiet hours

Be quiet at night for other campers and for wildlife.



trash

Throw garbage in cans that animals cannot get into.



bathroom

Use flush and pit toilets when available.



pets

Keep pets on leashes and pick up after them.



camera

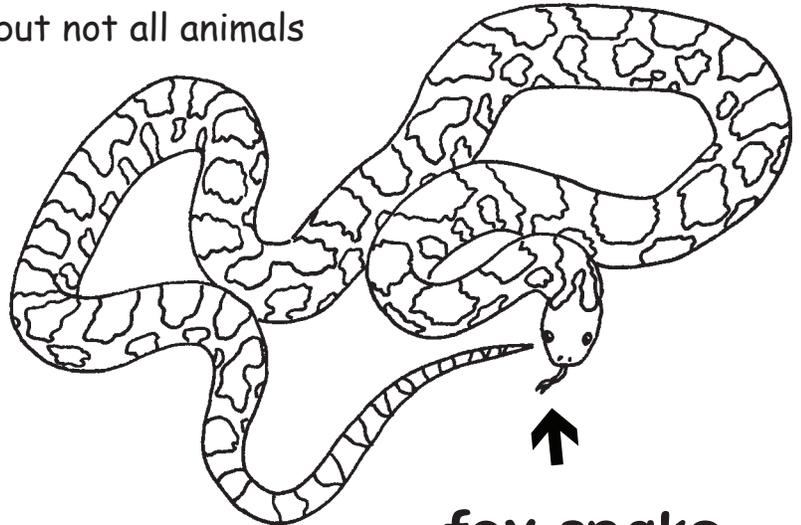
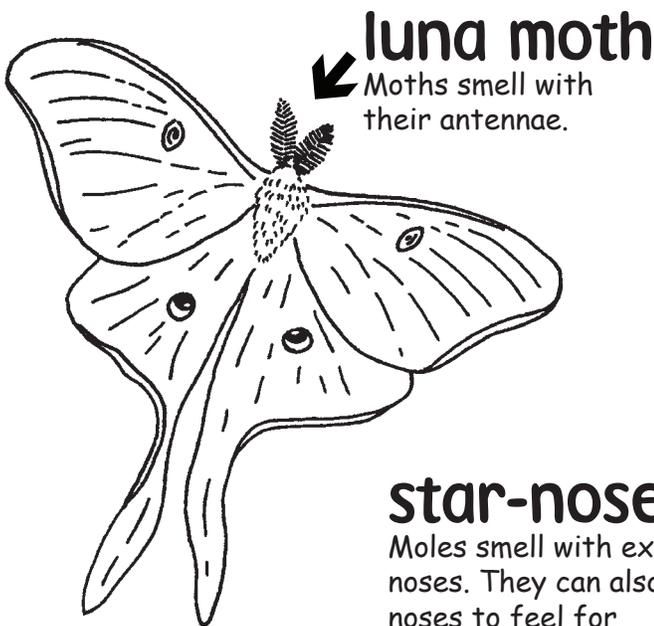
Use a camera to take a picture instead of taking things home.

Under Your Nose!

Did you know that cherry trees stink? Have you ever smelled a pine tree? Did you know that some flowers smell different after the sun goes down? Wiggle your nose and get ready to do some exploring!

Look for strange “noses”

People smell things with their noses, but not all animals use a “nose” like yours!



Grown-ups

Investigate smell

You may notice that you can smell better after a rain, when you inhale deeply with your head back, or when your nose is wet. Share these insights with your preschooler. Show him how to gently rub a leaf or twig to release a plant's scent without picking the leaf.

Follow a scent trail

Secretly cut an onion in half and rub it on a tree's bark at a height your preschooler can easily smell. Can she find the marked tree? Try making a trail of marked trees for her to follow.

Read a Story

Under the Moon by Joanne Ryder

Play a smelling game

Have a grown-up help you write the names of the people playing the game in the top row. Go on a hike and look for things to smell such as flowers, trees, dirt, moss, and rain. Write or draw the things you smell in the left column. After smelling, each person can fill in a happy, sad, or OK face.



I like it!



I don't like it!



It's OK.

names →				
↓ things you smell				

Exploring the Extremes . . .

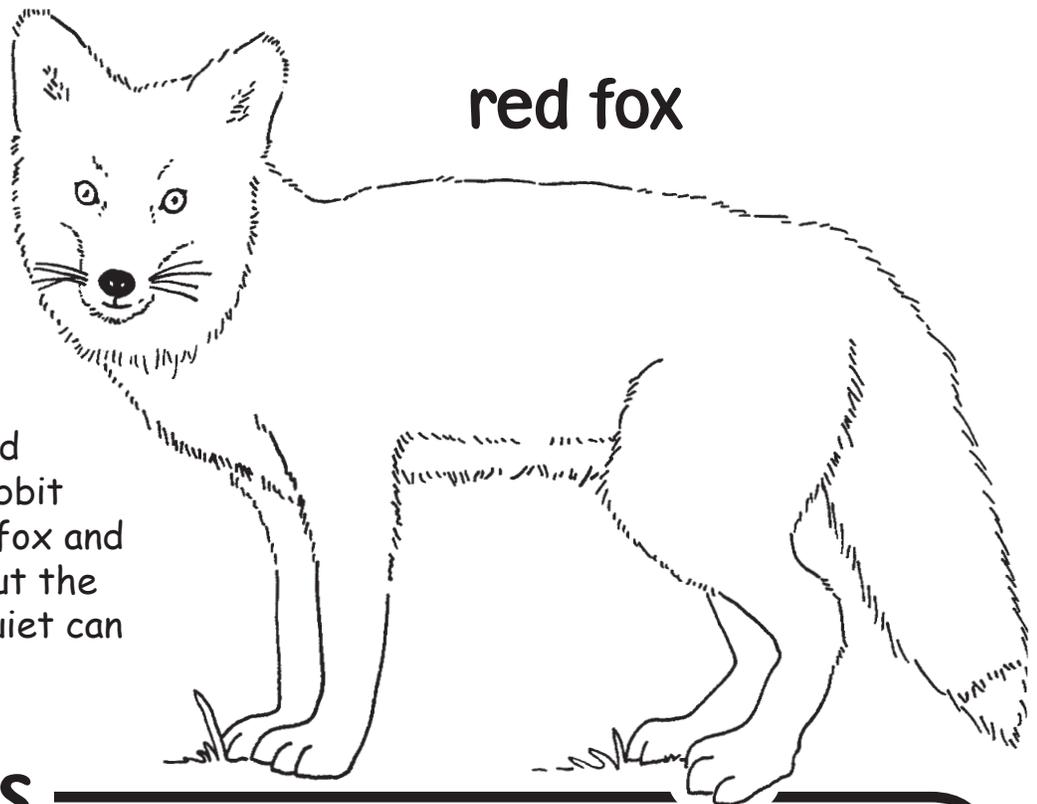
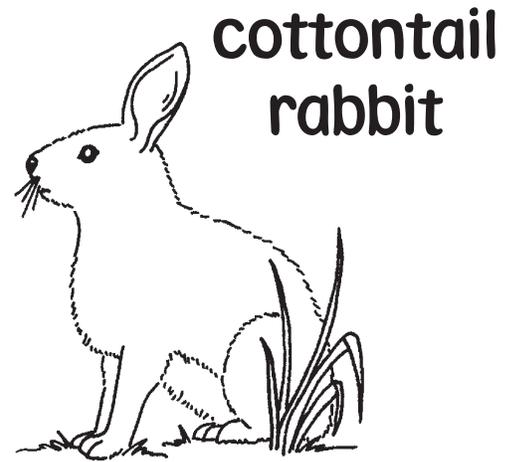
With Your Ears!

Shhhh! Listen! Can you hear birds singing? Is that the wind moving through the leaves or is that a squirrel?

Close your eyes and listen. Can you hear better with your eyes open or closed?

Play fox and rabbit

Animals use their ears to find food and stay away from danger. Choose one person to be a rabbit and one person to be a fox. Place something to eat on the ground. The fox sits down on the ground a few feet in front of the treat and closes her eyes. The rabbit must sneak around the fox and pick up the treat without the fox hearing him. How quiet can you be?



Grown-ups

Try on some big animal ears

Cut the bottom out of a paper cup. Fit the bottom of the cup over your child's ear. Can he hear better when he has bigger ears? Show him how to move the cup around to collect sounds from different directions. Which animals have big ears?

Imagine different ears

Ask your preschooler, "If you could have animal ears, which ones would you choose? Why?"

Play along with nature

After listening to insects, frogs, birds, rain, and wind, you and your child can try to recreate the wild sounds. Collect some pine cones, spoons, sticks, and combs. Experiment with the sounds you can make.

Read a story

The Very Quiet Cricket by Eric Carle
Animal Ears: Look Once, Look Again by David M. Schwartz
Whose Sound Is This? by Nancy Kelly Allen

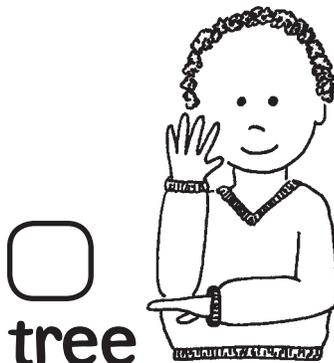
Take a listening walk

Can you be extremely quiet? Can you walk without saying a word? Learn American Sign Language for things you might hear outside. Then take a walk and talk with your hands. Check off the things you hear on your walk.



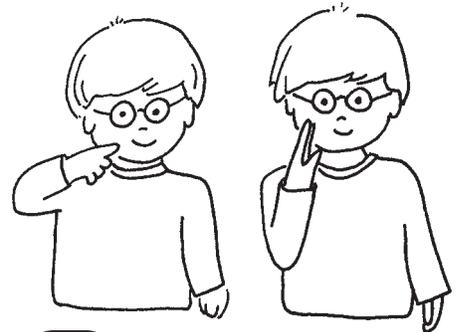
bird

Open and close your thumb and index finger twice.



tree

Make a tree with your right hand and shake it back and forth.



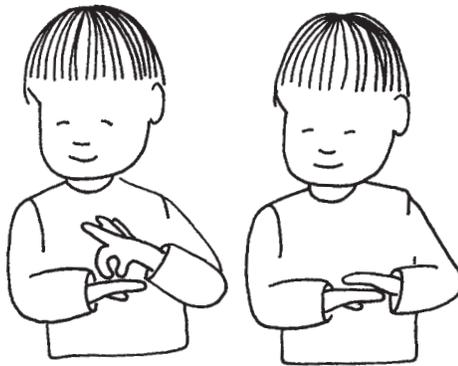
honeybee

Point to your cheek, then brush away the "bee" with your hand.



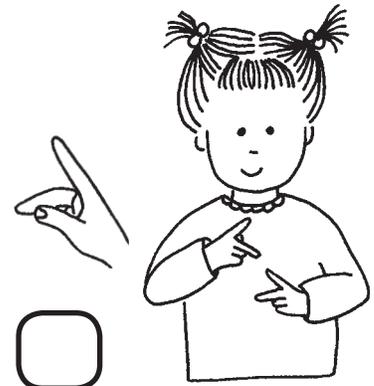
squirrel

Tap the first two fingers of your hands together several times.



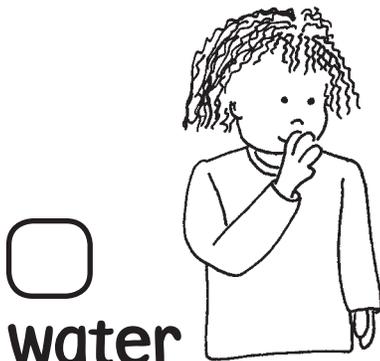
mosquito

Touch the back of your hand with your thumb and first finger, then slap your hand.



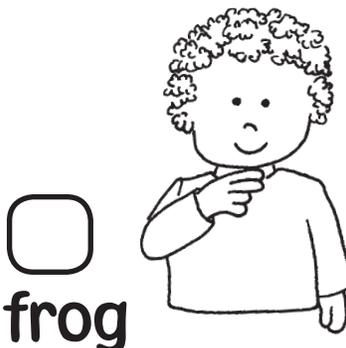
people

Make "k"s with your fingers and circle them around each other.



water

Make a "W" with your right hand and touch your mouth with your first finger a few times.



frog

Make a fist under your chin, then snap out your first two fingers.



wind

Sway your hands back and forth together. Puff your cheeks and breathe out - the stronger the wind the faster the movement.

Exploring nature is fun, easy, and good for you!



It's time to **Get Outdoors! Wisconsin!** Did you know that actively exploring in the outdoors reduces stress, helps fight obesity, increases creativity, and improves performance at school and work?

The Wisconsin State Park System invites you to . . .

Get Outdoors! Wisconsin to play and explore. Find events, activities, and materials to get you started. Go to <www.wiparks.net> and look for **Get Outdoors! Wisconsin**.

Attend nature programs to discover the natural and cultural resources around you. Visit <www.wiparks.net> for a statewide calendar of programs.

Follow trails, paths, or sidewalks and see what you find along the way. You'll find 112 state parks, trails, forests, and recreation areas at <www.wiparks.net>

Borrow nature exploration tools.

Many state properties have exploration cards, backpacks, magnifying lenses, and other equipment for loan. Ask at the park office.



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc.) upon request. Please call 608-266-2181 for more information.

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