Exploring the Extremes

Honeybee
Wisconsin’s State Insect

your name

date

name of park

Wisconsin State Parks, Forests, Trails, and Recreation Areas
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).

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.
- Mail your evaluation form, along with name and address, to: Wisconsin Explorers PR/6, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. 7921, Madison, WI 53707. The patch will arrive in 2-4 weeks. If you misplaced your evaluation form, visit <www.wiparks.net> and search for “Wisconsin Explorers.”

We love getting letters and drawings about your explorations!

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

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Exploring the Extremes . . .

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

© 2009 WI Department of Natural Resources - Wisconsin Explorers - Exploring the Extremes (Ages 3-5)
**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).

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<td><strong>seed with parachute</strong></td>
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<td><strong>person</strong> (in an airplane, helicopter, or hot air balloon)</td>
<td><strong>mosquito</strong></td>
<td><strong>bird</strong></td>
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**What did you see?**
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?

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.

- slug
- snail
- millipede
- centipede
- blue-spotted salamander
- ground beetle
- wolf spider
- roly-poly
  Special kind of woodlouse that can roll up into a ball.
- woodlouse
- ant
- field cricket
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.

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

Grown-ups
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**
  - puercoespin (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.

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.

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

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-seek
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.

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

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

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

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

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

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!

- **star-nosed mole**: Moles smell with extremely weird noses. They can also use their noses to feel for earthworms!
- **fox snake**: Snakes smell with their forked tongues.
- **luna moth**: Moths smell with their antennae.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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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.
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.

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its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action
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Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication is available in
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