

## Create Your Own Nature Trail

What if we lose the names for things in nature around us? Will we notice if they disappear? Learn how to identify birds and plants and insects in your own backyard, or even from your window! Create a nature trail in your own backyard or neighbourhood! Let's get to know the natural world that we live in.

### Setup

In the philosophy of learning in nature, interest is often captured by storytelling. Listen to the story of the hummingbird and read from the inspiring poetry collection *The Lost Words*. Go outside, explore a space you want to know about, write or draw possibilities in your nature journal, and begin exploring the possibilities with students.

### Content

#### *Design Thinking Process*

On the right

is an example of a design thinking process for this activity. At each step, ask your students these questions and build the path with them.



#### *Call to make*

Identifying what exists around you in nature, is the first step in protecting our environment. "We protect what we love and we love what we know." If we lose these words and names, what are the chances we will know that they exist, or notice if they disappear?

#### *Empathize*

How can we create a fun way to learn about our local environment? How can we share this information with others? How would you feel if there were no more animals or birds in your backyard? How would you feel waking up to silence, no birds chirping?

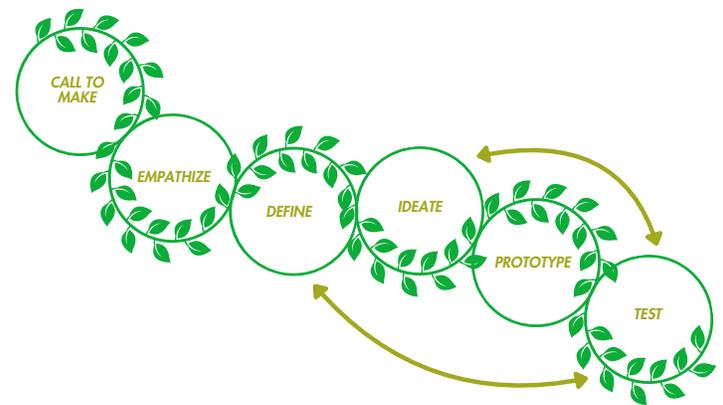


### Skills

- Observation

### Materials

- Nature Journal



**Define**

Do you have an outdoor space to explore and safely observe nature? If not, can you start your nature observation from a window? Maybe there is more nature than you think inside your own house! Can you tell what the fibers that make your carpets, cloths or cushions are?

**Ideate**

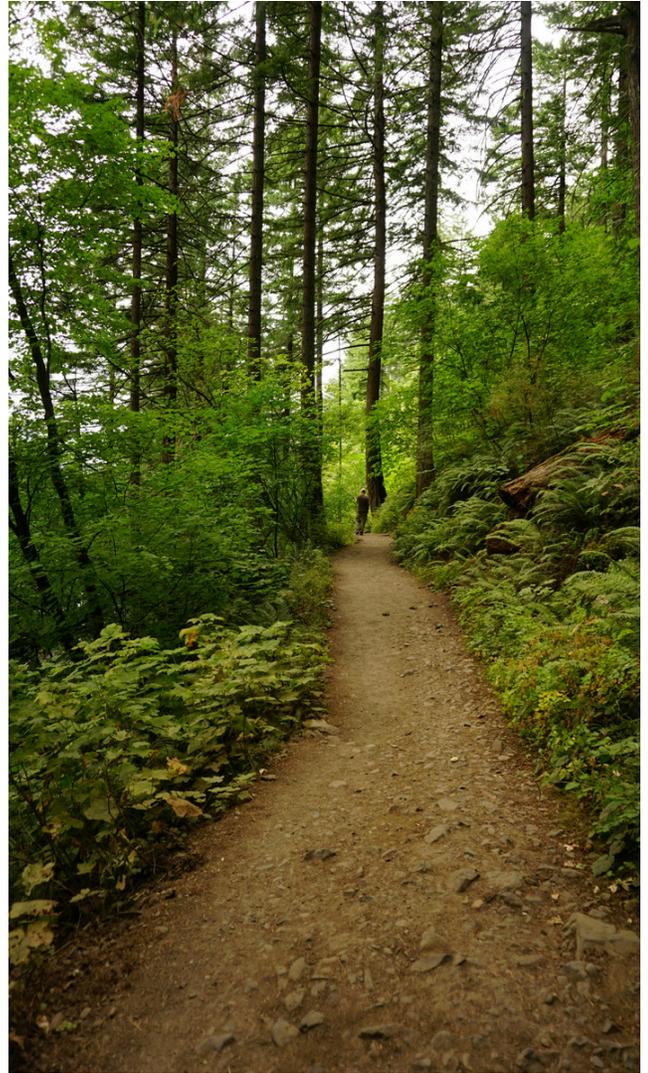
What other sources can be used to identify the nature that has been observed? How will you share your knowledge and identities of what has been observed? Signs? A video? How can they be placed so they are visible without harming the biodiversity?

**Prototype**

Create your outdoor or indoor nature trail. Can you easily see all your points of interest as you walk along? How can you make sure your signs are seen and easy to read and understand? Would another type of product be better?

**Test**

Have others follow your nature trail. What did they learn? What can be improved?



## Teachable Moments

### Math

What is the distance of your nature trail? What unit of measurement would you use to describe your trail? Would it work better to use feet, meters, kilometers? What tools would you use to measure its length and area? What is the area that you will be covering?

### Science

Keeping detailed journal illustrations or photographs of flora and fauna so that each item can be identified through research. What are the stages in the life cycle of birds? What are the food sources of birds? What are the predators of birds? What are the benefits of having birds nesting in your garden?

### Visual Arts

Can you draw what you observe? Keeping a record is helpful for research. It also allows you to spend time really examining the nature around you. You may notice things like female birds are not as brightly coloured as male birds, or some plants change colour depending on the season.

### Language Arts

Write informative signs and labels for the plants that you observe along the trail. They can be creative, maybe it is a song or poem!

### Music

Record the bird calls that you hear. Can you mimic their tune?

### Physical Education

Nature walks are a great way to get moving. Having places to pause and reflect on what you are seeing and learn something new are a great way to exercise body and mind.

### Social Studies

What facts can you discover about the land that you are on? Who lived there before you? How did they use the land and what did they consider to be important? How did it evolve through time? Find old pictures of your community and compare.

### Health

How are nature walks beneficial to us? Does knowing your surroundings and how local nature relates to you, make the walk even more enjoyable?

### Take it Further

Research what the environment would look like if the things that you listed on your nature trail did not exist. How are they important to us and the environment?



## Glossary

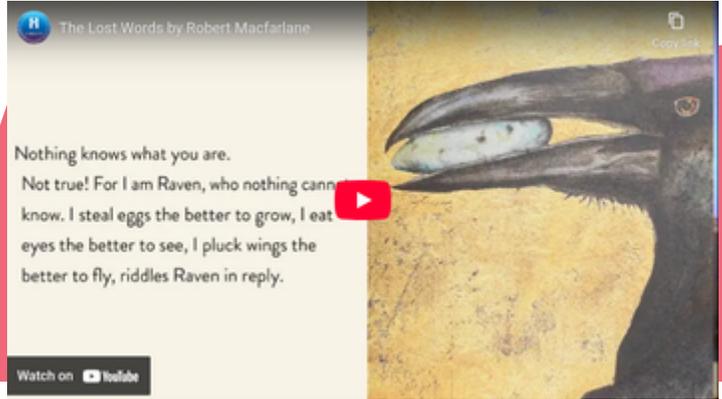
### Flora

the plants of a particular region, habitat, or geological period.

## Resources

### The Lost Words

A powerful book written after the disappearance of 50 nature words in the Oxford children's dictionary. Words like fern, willow, and starling have been replaced in favor of terms like broadband and cut and paste.



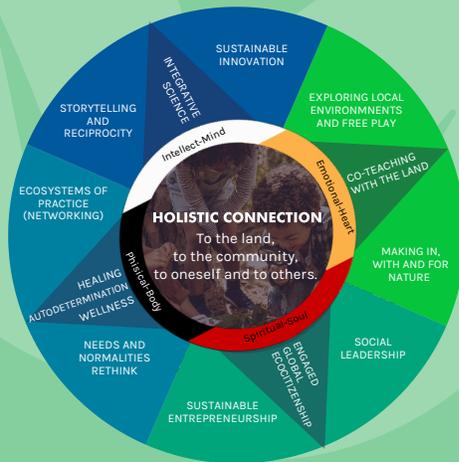
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRsYApE0qCg&feature=youtu.be>



## Learning continuum: Sustainable Innovation Through Holistic Connection

Based on three emerging pedagogies\* and in recognition of indigenous knowledge, the natural maker educational continuum aims to support the learner through a holistic journey of connection to the earth, the community, oneself and others, in order to evolve globally towards a more open, humble, democratic and decolonized way of thinking, learning and living.

\* wild pedagogies, conscious pedagogies and decolonization of education



#EarthDayInNature  
#ActForEarth #ClimateAction

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