

DROP & GO — BACKYARD EXPLORERS

Explore More. Notice More. Grow More.



- Adventure Starts Outside
- Nature Is Full of Discoveries
- Curious Kids Explore the World
- Small Adventures. Big Discoveries.

INTRODUCTION — WHAT IS A BACKYARD EXPLORER?

Backyard explorers learn by:

- observing nature
- asking questions
- looking closely
- exploring safely
- respecting plants and animals
- discovering the world around them

Every backyard, park, trail, and garden is full of amazing things waiting to be discovered.

Explorers:

- stay curious
- explore kindly
- protect nature
- keep learning
- share discoveries

BACKYARD EXPLORER RULES

Stay with trusted adults Be gentle with nature Watch carefully Leave wild spaces clean Respect animals and insects Stay hydrated Wear safe shoes Explore with curiosity

SECTION 1 — EXPLORER GEAR



Helpful Explorer Tools

Water bottle Magnifying glass Notebook Pencil Hat Backpack Flashlight Gloves Comfortable shoes

Explorer Checklist

I packed water I brought my journal I dressed for the weather I am ready to explore safely

SECTION 2 — NATURE DETECTIVES

DROP & GO! BACKYARD EXPLORERS

NATURE DETECTIVES

• CAN YOU FIND THESE OUTDOOR TREASURES? •

Look closely. Be curious. Check them off as you find them! ♥

FEATHER Soft, light, and pretty. ♥

PINECONE Look for one that has fallen. ♥

SMOOTH ROCK Nature's little masterpiece. ♥

BUTTERFLY Watch it flutter and fly! ♥

LEAF SHAPE Find an interesting leaf. ♥

FLOWER Notice its color and smell. ♥

WORM Wiggly helpers in the soil! ♥

BIRD NEST Look up, down, and around! ♥

BUG Any bug you find is amazing! ♥

MUSHROOM What shape and color is it? ♥

ANIMAL TRACKS Who was here before you? ♥

STICK SHAPE Find a cool stick to measure! ♥

ACORN Look for hats and nuts! ♥

SPIDER WEB Look closely but don't break it! ♥

BERRY What color berries can you find? ♥

BIRD Listen for songs in the trees! ♥

MY EXPLORER NOTES

What did you discover today? ...

- Draw your favorite find! -

Date: _____ Weather: ☀️ ☁️ 💧

EXPLORER TIP
Slow down and look closer. You'll see more than you ever imagined! ♥

MINI MISSION!
Find 5 things on this list today!
Can you find them all?
☆☆☆☆☆

EVERY DISCOVERY MAKES YOU AN AMAZING EXPLORER! ♥

What Can You Find?

- Smooth rock Feather Butterfly Worm Flower Bird nest Pinecone Interesting leaf Animal tracks Mushrooms

Nature Observation

What did you notice today?

SECTION 3 — LEAF & FLOWER EXPLORERS



Every Plant Is Different

Some leaves are:

- smooth
- fuzzy
- pointy
- giant
- tiny

Some flowers:

- attract pollinators
- smell sweet

- bloom in different seasons

Color Hunt

Find: Red flower Yellow flower Purple flower Tiny flower Giant leaf

SECTION 4 — BIRD & BUG WATCHERS

[



Tiny Outdoor Helpers

Watch for: Bees Butterflies Dragonflies Ladybugs Birds Frogs Squirrels

Observation Challenge

What colors did you see? What sounds did you hear? What was flying? What was crawling?

Reminder

Look carefully. Never hurt bugs or animals.

SECTION 5 — WEATHER WATCHERS

DROP & GO! BACKYARD EXPLORERS

WEATHER WATCHERS

THE WEATHER CHANGES, AND NATURE RESPONDS!
Pay attention. Ask questions. Be amazed.

WHAT TO OBSERVE

- Clouds**
Shapes, colors, and how fast they move.
- Temperature**
Is it hot, warm, cool, or cold?
- Wind**
Which way is it blowing? Strong or gentle?
- Precipitation**
Is it raining, snowing, sleet, or hailing?
- Sun & Light**
Is it sunny, cloudy, bright, or dim?
- Nature's Response**
How do plants, animals, and insects react to the weather?

TYPES OF WEATHER

- SUNNY**
Clear skies and bright sunshine!
- CLOUDY**
Clouds cover the sky.
- RAINY**
Rain helps plants grow!
- WINDY**
Wind can be strong or soft.
- STORMY**
Thunder, lightning, and heavy rain.
- SNOWY**
Snowflakes fall and everything gets quiet.

HOW NATURE REACTS

- Clouds bring rain that waters the plants.
- Sunshine helps flowers bloom and grow.
- Wind spreads seeds and helps trees sway.
- Rain brings worms and helps ponds fill up.
- Cold weather keeps some animals safe and warm.
- Snow protects plants and keeps the ground cozy.

CLOUD SHAPES

- CUMULUS**
Fluffy and puffy.
- STRATUS**
Flat and layered.
- CIRRUS**
Thin and wispy.
- CUMULONIMBUS**
Tall and can bring storms.

WEATHER WATCHER TIP

The weather changes all the time. Keep observing and you'll start to see patterns!

WEATHER WATCHER PROMISE

- I will observe the weather.
- I will respect nature.
- I will be prepared.
- I will protect our planet.

MY WEATHER JOURNAL

Today's weather is: _____

I notice: _____

How does nature react today? _____

Draw what you see: _____

Every day is a new adventure. Look up. Look around. Stay curious!

Weather Changes Nature

☀️ Sunny Days ☁️ Rainy Days 🌬️ Windy Days ❄️ Cold Days

Every kind of weather changes the world around us.

My Weather Journal

Sunny Cloudy Rainy Windy Hot Cold

What changed outside today?

SECTION 6 — ANIMAL TRACKS & SIGNS

DROP & GO! BACKYARD EXPLORERS

ANIMAL TRACKS & SIGNS

NATURE LEAVES CLUES. CAN YOU FIND THEM?

Look carefully. Be a nature detective! ♥

ANIMAL TRACKS

Whose tracks are these?

RABBIT	BIRD	SQUIRREL	RACCOON	DEER
Hops along with big back feet.	Tiny feet that leave 3-toed prints.	Little hands with tiny finger marks.	Five toes that look like tiny hands.	Two-part hooves often in a line.

SIGNS IN NATURE

Animals don't always leave tracks. Look for these clues!

 FEATHERS A bird was resting or had a meal.	 CHEWED PLANTS An animal stopped by for a snack.	 BURROWS Some animals live underground.
 NESTS A safe place for eggs or babies.	 SCAT (POOP) Animals leave scat where they travel.	 RUB MARKS Animals mark territory by rubbing trees.

WHERE TO LOOK

 NEAR WATER	 ON TRAILS	 UNDER TREES	 IN GARDENS	 IN LEAF LITTER
----------------	---------------	-----------------	----------------	--------------------

MY EXPLORER NOTES

Today I found these tracks:

Today I found these signs:

What do I think was here?

MYSTERY CHALLENGE!

Can you find all 5 tracks and 3 signs on your next adventure?

DETECTIVE TIP

Look on soft ground, near water, along trails, and under trees! ♥

NATURE PROMISE

I will observe quietly.
I will respect wildlife.
I will leave no trace.
I will protect the places animals call home.

BE CURIOUS. BE KIND. PROTECT OUR WILD NEIGHBORS. ♥

Animals Leave Clues

Look for: Tracks Feathers Burrows Chewed plants Bird nests Sounds

Track Detective Challenge

Can you guess:

- who was here?
- where they went?
- what they were doing?

SECTION 7 — OUTDOOR SAFETY



Smart Explorer Habits

- Drink water
- Wear sunscreen
- Stay with adults
- Watch where you walk
- Wear safe shoes
- Wash hands after exploring
- Respect wildlife
- Leave nature clean

Explorer Reminder

The best explorers take care of nature.

SECTION 8 — BACKYARD SCAVENGER HUNT



Can You Find These?

- Something smooth
 Something rough
 Something tiny
 Something colorful
 Something that flies
 Something underground
 A flower
 A bird
 A cool rock
 A bug helper

SECTION 9 — BACKYARD EXPLORER CHALLENGES

NATURE WATCHER CHALLENGE

- Observe clouds
 Listen for birds
 Find pollinators
 Watch the weather
 Explore safely

OUTDOOR HELPER CHALLENGE

- Pick up litter
 - Water plants
 - Protect pollinators
 - Help a garden
 - Respect wildlife
-

ADVENTURE JOURNAL CHALLENGE

- Draw discoveries
- Record weather
- Sketch leaves
- Write observations
- Share discoveries

SECTION 10 — BACKYARD EXPLORER BADGES

TRAIL TRACKER BADGE

- Earned

WEATHER WATCHER BADGE

- Earned

POLLINATOR FINDER BADGE

- Earned

BIRD WATCHER BADGE

- Earned

NATURE DETECTIVE BADGE

- Earned

OUTDOOR HELPER BADGE

- Earned

ADVENTURE JOURNAL BADGE

- Earned

BACKYARD EXPLORER BADGE

- Earned
-

SECTION 11 — MY EXPLORER JOURNAL

SOMETHING AMAZING I FOUND

DRAW YOUR FAVORITE OUTDOOR DISCOVERY

WHAT SOUNDS DID YOU HEAR?

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EXPLORE NEXT?

SECTION 12 — BACKYARD EXPLORER PLEDGE

I will: Explore safely Stay curious Respect nature Observe carefully

Protect plants and animals Leave nature clean Keep learning Share discoveries kindly

FINAL MESSAGE

The outdoors is full of amazing discoveries.

Every walk can become an adventure.

Every backyard can become a classroom.

Keep exploring. Keep discovering. Keep growing.

The world always needs curious explorers.