

National Wildlife Federation®
Ranger Rick 



RANGER RICK'S NATURE NOTEBOOK

Learn and connect with nature through 6 pages
of interactive note-taking and sketching.



THREE ANIMALS

Go outside and find a bird, an insect, and a mammal. Use the chart below to list special traits of each animal.

Keep a Record!

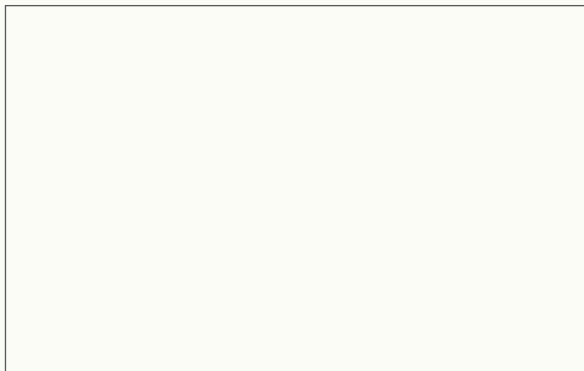
Date _____ Time _____
Location _____ Weather _____

Helpful Things to Take Along

☐ Pencil ☐ Field guides on birds, insects
and mammals (optional)

Bird: _____ (name)	Insect: _____ (name)	Mammal: _____ (name)

Choose one of these three animals to sketch below:



In your opinion, what are the three most distinguishing traits of the animal you sketched?





DEAD TREES ALIVE!

Nothing is more alive than a dead tree. See for yourself!

Keep a Record!

Date _____ Time _____

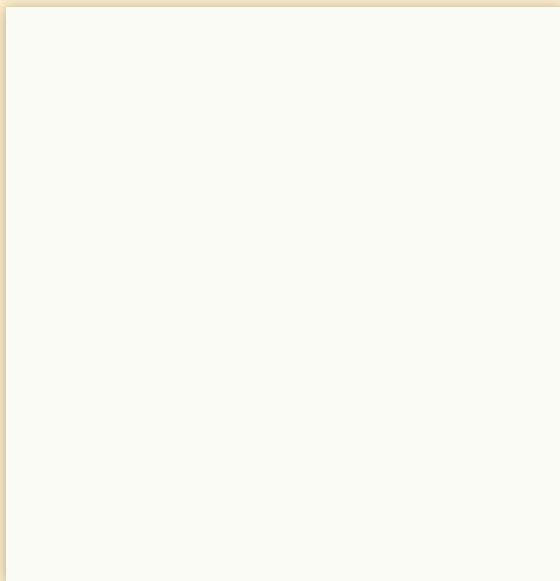
Location _____ Weather _____

Helpful Things to Take Along

☐ Crayons or
colored pencils

☐ Field guide on
trees (optional)

1. Head outside and find a dead tree (still standing or fallen) or a rotting log. Sketch it here:



2. What living things (or signs of living things, such as feathers, poop, holes, or chewed bark) do you see on and around it?

3. Look on and under the bark. What traces of life can you find?

4. If you have picked a fallen tree, look beside and beneath it. If you are looking at a log, roll it over if you can. (Note: Roll the log toward you so that any snakes or other creatures can escape away from you.) What do you find? Roll the log back in place after looking.

5. If you picked a standing tree, look up. Describe what you see. Do you see any holes above you or any animals scurrying or birds coming and going?

6. On the back of this page, write a paragraph that explains why your dead tree or log is alive. Provide as much evidence as you can.

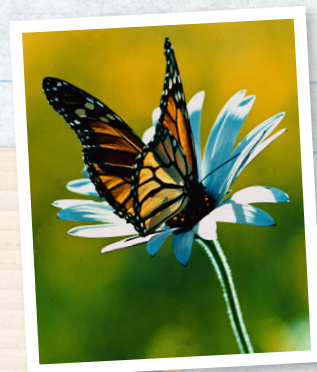




Ranger Rick's Nature Notebook

GET INTO INSECTS

In the summer, all kinds of insects come out where you can see them. Go on an insect hunt and see what kinds you can find.



Keep a Record!

Date _____ Time _____

Location _____

Weather _____

Helpful Things to Take Along

☐ Field guide to insects

☐ Magnifying glass

☐ See-through container

INSECT 1

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
DRAW IT.

WHAT IS IT DOING? DESCRIBE IT.

INSECT 2

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
DRAW IT.

WHAT IS IT DOING? DESCRIBE IT.

INSECT 3

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
DRAW IT.

WHAT IS IT DOING? DESCRIBE IT.



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POND DWELLERS

A pond is a busy place in the spring. With an adult, visit a pond (or stream, lake, or river) near you. Check out all the interesting things you can find — both around and in it!

- 1 Find a place where you can sit still for a few minutes and notice what's happening around the pond.

What do you see? Describe birds, frogs, insects, plantlife, and other things that you may spot.

What do you hear? Describe any animal calls, plant rustlings, water and wind sounds.

- 2 Now carefully move close to the pond.

Use a clear container to scoop up some pond water with tiny creatures in it. In the box at right, draw some of the pond dwellers that you scooped up. Add words to describe what they are doing and other details you notice. Return the creatures to the pond.

- 3 Use a small fishing net to catch insects, snails, tadpoles, or other pond animals. On the back of this sheet, draw their pictures. Add words to describe what they are doing. If you want, look them up in a field guide to find their names and other facts about them. Return the creatures to the pond.





ANIMAL ANTICS

The animals in your neighborhood are up to all kinds of things! Just take a few moments to watch one and you'll see!

Keep a Record!

Date _____ Time _____

Location _____

Weather _____

Helpful Things to Take Along

☐ Pencil

☐ Magnifying glass or binoculars
(optional)

1. Choose an animal to watch: a bird, a squirrel, a spider, an ant, a worm, a pillbug—whatever you can find! Draw a picture of your animal on the back of this paper.
2. Describe the animal's behavior in the chart below.

OBSERVATIONS

What do you see the animal doing?

Behavior #1:

Behavior #2:

Behavior #3:

OPINIONS

Why do you think the animal is doing this?

Possible reason:

Possible reason:

Possible reason:





TREASURE MAP

Do you have a favorite outdoor spot? Make a "treasure map" showing the way to your special spot. Then see if a friend can follow your map to find you there!

Keep a Record!

Date _____ Time _____

Location _____

Weather _____

Helpful Things to Take Along

☐ Colored pencils

☐ Compass (if you want)

☐ Tape measure (if you want)

1. In the box below, draw the path you follow to get to your special place.
2. Add landmarks to help show the way, such as an unusual tree, a big rock, or other things that will tell someone he or she is on the right path.
3. If you want, use a compass to add directions (north, south, east, west) and a tape measure to add distances (in feet or meters) to your map.
4. Draw some of the special things you can see and do when you reach the "treasure" at the end of the trail.

