

October 2020

WILD KIDS

SEASONAL NATURE EDUCATION FOR KIDS & THEIR GROWN UPS

**Make Flower Bulbs Bloom
Inside This Winter**

Leaf Printing

Autumn Bingo

**Misunderstood
Goldenrod**

**Lovely
Lavender**

**With seasonal
poetry, activities,
nature journal
pages & more**

From the editor

BY ALICIA BAYER

Happy October!

What are you hoping to do outdoors this month?

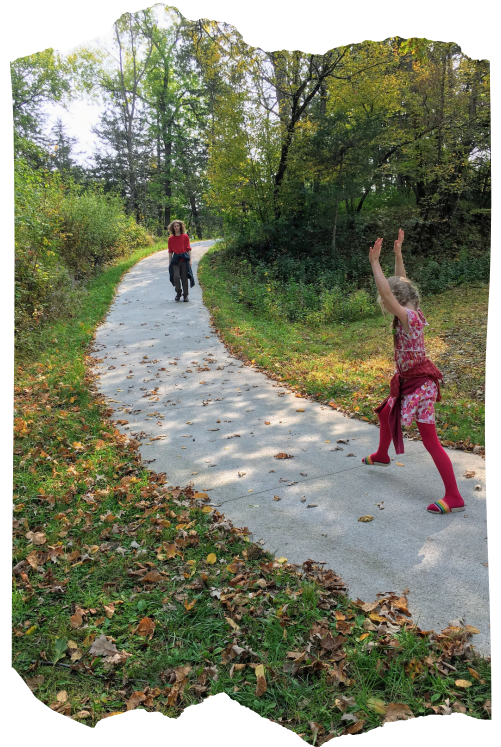
Here in Minnesota, it's starting to get a little chilly and we've spent a lot of time hiking and at the lake. Pretty soon it will freeze with ice so thick that we can drive cars on it, so we like to enjoy it as much as we can in the fall. It's too cold to swim in anymore but our dog, Moose, doesn't think so and he jumps right in. The rest of us spend our time looking for rocks and artifacts, taking pictures, walking the beach and just enjoying the cooler weather.

We'll be putting our garden to bed this month but we'll leave lots of leaves and dried plants for wildlife to use. Bees will make nests in hollow stalks, birds will eat dried berries and seeds, and rabbits will soon dig tunnels under the snow and live snug and protected from neighborhood cats in the midst of our jungle of black raspberry shrubs in the back yard. In the spring we'll see lots of tidy piles of rabbit droppings to show us they were there all winter while we never knew!

Folks in the Southern Hemisphere are seeing the return of warmer weather at the start of spring. Which season do you like best, fall or spring? I have to admit that spring is my favorite, but I've learned to love all the wonderful things fall offers too.

Wherever you are in the world, I hope you have a fantastic month with lots of wild adventures!

Alicia



Why is Wild Kids free?

Kids (and their grown ups) need nature, and nature needs us! Our family believes in the importance of sharing & helping each other, and of passing on skills to help our world and each other. As long as we are able, we plan to produce Wild Kids to help do this for families who find it useful.


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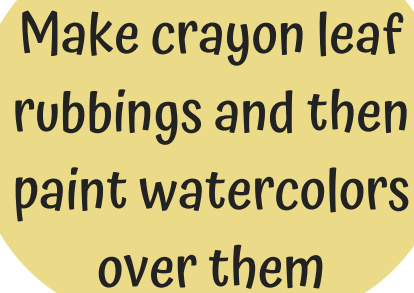
Find lots more links, information and fun to accompany this month's themes at
www.magicalchildhood.com/wildkids.

Go Wild in October

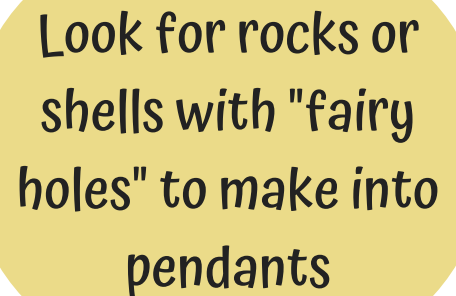
10 WAYS TO PLAY & LEARN WITH NATURE THIS MONTH




Force some bulbs
for winter flowers
(we tell you how in
this issue)




Make crayon leaf
rubbings and then
paint watercolors
over them




Look for rocks or
shells with "fairy
holes" to make into
pendants




Make shrunken
apple heads (we
showed how in the
Oct 2019 issue)



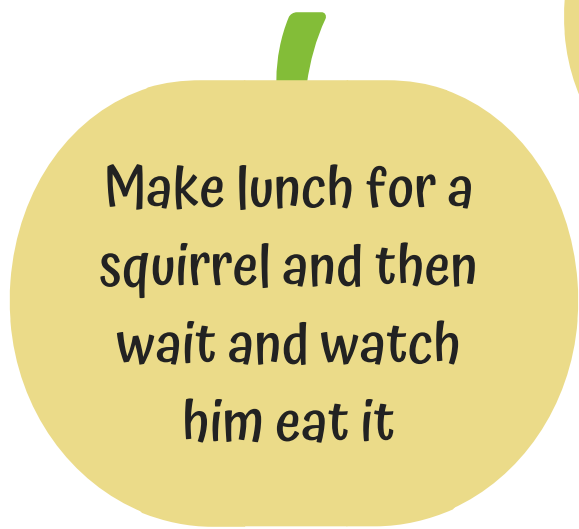
Go on a bike
ride with a friend or
family member




Collect flower seeds
to plant next year
(make sure they're
fully dried)



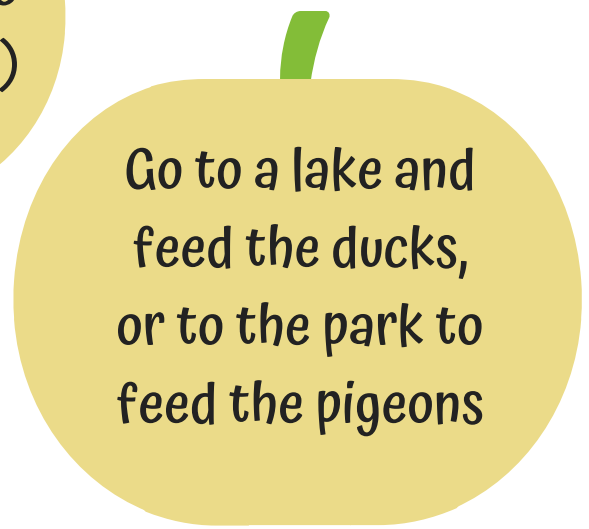
Play autumn
BINGO (we have
one in this issue)



Make lunch for a
squirrel and then
wait and watch
him eat it



Rake leaves
and jump in
them



Go to a lake and
feed the ducks,
or to the park to
feed the pigeons

FORCING BULBS FOR INDOOR BLOOMS

Use spring bulbs to have flowers inside in wintertime!

Do you miss flowers in the winter? Here's a way to trick nature and have flowers blooming in your house in the middle of winter.

Even if you live in a climate where you can't grow spring flowers like hyacinths, daffodils or tulips, you can have them bloom inside your house if you trick them with some cold temperatures first.

All you need to do is get some spring bulbs and plant them (roots down, tops sticking out of the soil a little bit) in a pot of potting soil, and then put them someplace cold like a refrigerator for a couple of months. This fools the bulbs into thinking they're in the ground and it's winter.

You don't have to water them during this time -- just let them be dormant (sleep) for winter.

When you're ready for your flowers to grow and bloom, take them out of the fridge and put them in a sunny spot. Water them and wait.

In a short time, you'll see green shoots. Soon after that, you'll see buds that will become your flowers.

Make sure to keep your growing flowers watered. When they're done blooming, you can plant them outside to bloom regularly in the upcoming years.

Have fun!



Making Leaf Prints



If there are leaves all over the ground where you live right now, why not make some art with them?



Just paint one side with acrylic or watercolor paint (or natural dyes from plants like elderberries and pokeweed berries) and then press onto paper or cloth.

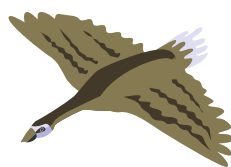
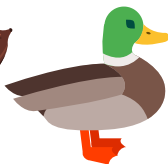


Have fun!





AUTUMN BINGO



How to Play: Head out into nature and see how many items you can find. Make an x over the ones you spot and try to get a BINGO either across, down, or diagonally. To make it a bigger challenge, try to get a blackout by marking off every square this month.



In a different climate? We have a blank grid on the next page to make your own nature BINGO. Write down plants and wildlife that are in your area this time of year. If you need suggestions, do a web search for October wildlife and your location.



orange leaf	goose	squirrel	pumpkin	bare tree
deer	acorn	yellow leaf	animal den	dried corn
seed pod	berry	FREE	snake	chestnut
spider	pinecone	duck	chipmunk	woodpecker
rose hip	mushroom	walnut	red leaf	rabbit



NATURE BINGO

How to Play: Write down plants and wildlife that are in your area this time of year, one in each square. If you need suggestions, do a web search for wildlife and your location and the month or season. Head out into nature and see how many items you can find. Make an x over the ones you spot and try to get a BINGO either across, down, or diagonally. To make it a bigger challenge, try to get a blackout by marking off every square this month.

Decorate the page with pictures of your wildlife!

		FREE		

Nature Jokes!

Why don't mountains catch colds?
They wear snow caps

What did one volcano say to the other?
I lava you

What did the trees wear to the pool party?
Swimming trunks

What did the limestone say to the geologist?
Don't take me for granite

What did the little tree say to the big tree?
Leaf me alone

What did the flower say after it told a joke?
I was pollen your leg

What type of tree fits in your hand?
A palm tree

What kind of flower grows on your face?
Tulips

Where does seaweed look for a job?
In the kelp-wanted section

Why does a seagull fly over the sea?
Because if it flew over the bay, it would be a baygull

What did the beach say to the surfer?
It just waved

What falls in winter but never gets hurt?
Snow

Where do rocks like to sleep?
Bedrocks

Where do saplings go to learn?
Elementree school

What did the bee say to the flower?
Hello, honey

Why did the pine tree get into trouble?
Because it was being knotty

Why can't pine trees sew?
They always drop their needles

What did the flower say to the flower beside him?
Move over bud

How many people can jump higher than a mountain?
None! Mountains can't jump!

What did the ground say to the earthquake?
You crack me up

Why did the worm cross the ruler?
To become an inchworm

What runs but never goes out of breath?
A river

How does the rain tie its shoes?
With a rainbow

What do you call a snowman in July?
A puddle.

What did the flower say after it told a joke?
I was pollen your leg

Which side of a tree has the most leaves?
The outside

Where do shellfish go to borrow money?
The prawn broker

What kind of shorts do clouds wear?
Thunderwear

What has a mouth but can't eat?
A river

What's a tornado's favorite game?
Twister

How does a bee brush its hair?
With its honeycomb

How are mountains able to see
They peak

Why don't oysters give to charity?
Because they're shellfish

What is the strongest creature in the ocean?
A mussel

What did the cloud say to the lightning bolt?
You're shocking

Why did the detectives show up at the beach?
Something fishy was going on

What do you call it when it rains chickens and ducks?
Foul weather

Why is the mushroom always invited to parties?
Because he's a fungi!

October Poetry

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."

L. M. Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables



A Song in October
By Theodor Storm

Clouds gather, treetops toss and sway;
But pour us wine, an old one!
That we may turn this dreary day
To golden, yes, to golden!
Autumn has come, but never fear,
Wait but a little while yet,
Spring will be here, the skies will clear,
And fields stand deep in violets.
The heavenly blue of fresh new days
Oh, friend, you must employ them
Before they pass away. Be brave!
Enjoy them; oh, enjoy them!

Fall, Leaves, Fall
By Emily Bronte

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.
I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.

Nature 27 - Autumn
By Emily Dickinson

The morns are meeker than they were,
The nuts are getting brown;
The berry's cheek is plumper,
The rose is out of town.

The maple wears a gayer scarf,
The field a scarlet gown.
Lest I should be old-fashioned,
I'll put a trinket on.



Misunderstood Goldenrod

Lots of people think goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.) is a nuisance plant because they confuse it with ragweed and think it causes fall allergies. Goldenrod actually has very heavy pollen so it doesn't float in the air to cause symptoms like ragweed does.

Some people use goldenrod to make herbal remedies for urinary tract infections (UTIs) and other ailments. Other people use goldenrod to make a pretty natural yellow dye.

One of the best things about goldenrod is that it is one of the last pollen sources in fall for bees. Letting goldenrod grow helps butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.

We have links to learn more about goldenrod on the Wild Kids website.



Lovely Lavender



Lavender is one of the most loved herbal flowers in the world. Over the years, it has been used to help people sleep, relieve stress and headaches, plus much more.

You can use dried lavender to make a relaxing dream pillow by sewing a small square of fabric and filling it with lavender. Sew it shut and put the pillow under your pillow.

People also use lavender to make desserts, lotions, bath salts, perfumes and lots of other things. You can grow it in your garden or even try growing it inside, or you can buy dried lavender to use in crafts and recipes.

We have links to learn more about lavender on the Wild Kids website.

GOLDENROD

(Solidago)

Plate 169.

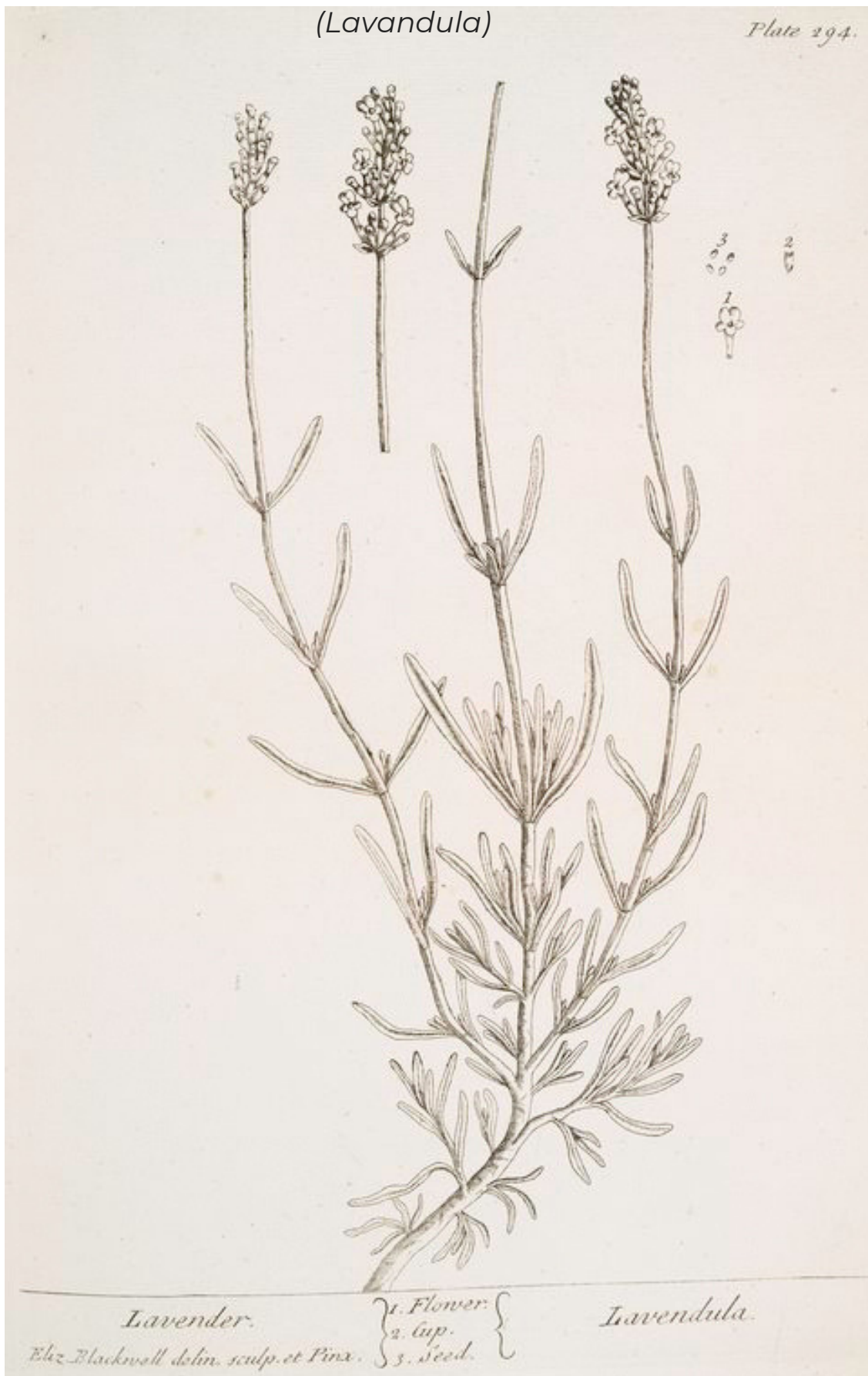


From: *A Curious Herbal: Containing Five Hundred Cuts Of The Most Useful Plants Which Are Now Used In The Practice Of Physick,*
Written, illustrated and engraved by Elizabeth Blackwell, 1737

LAVENDER

(*Lavandula*)

Plate 294.



From: *A Curious Herbal: Containing Five Hundred Cuts Of The Most Useful Plants
Which Are Now Used In The Practice Of Physick,*
Written, illustrated and engraved by Elizabeth Blackwell, 1737

My Nature Journal

OCTOBER

LEAF RUBBINGS

Find an assortment of study leaves and place them under this sheet. Rub over them with the side of a crayon to make an impression of them. If you like, paint over your rubbings with watercolor paint or natural ink. Since crayons are made of wax, the paint won't cover the crayon lines and your design will stand out. To make "magical" leaf prints, do rubbings in white crayon and then paint over them to reveal them.

OCTOBER WEATHER TREE



Key



sunny



cloudy



rainy



snowy



windy/
stormy

October Bird List

Birds spotted this month

October Animal List

Mammals, reptiles & other wildlife spotted this month

October Nature Notes

Record any interesting discoveries here -- plants you identify, foods you forage, outdoor activities, cool nature projects, nature books read, or just notes about what it's like outside this week!

Week 1 Observations

Week 2 Observations

Week 3 Observations

Week 4 Observations



Want to see your stuff in Wild Kids?

We welcome articles, photos, artwork and other submissions from kids and their grown ups.

Visit magicalchildhood.com/wildkids to learn more.