

December 2022

WILD KIDS

SEASONAL NATURE EDUCATION FOR KIDS & THEIR GROWN UPS

Herbal Flash Cards

Wild Kids
Favorite Winter
Activities

Foraging Gift Tags

Seasonal poems, activities,
nature journal pages and more!

From the editor

BY ALICIA BAYER

What do you like to do in nature where you live?

One thing I love about nature is that you can find wonderful things to do in it wherever you are!

I live in a tiny town in Minnesota now, but I was born in Los Angeles, California. We moved a lot when I was growing up and I've lived in lots and lots of states. Sometimes I lived in bigger cities like Little Rock, Arkansas, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Lexington, Kentucky, and sometimes we lived in smaller cities like Bangor, Maine, and Bemidji, Minnesota. No matter where I lived, nature was something special there.

In Arkansas, I used to walk to a neighborhood creek after school and just sit and watch the water. In California, I used to hike in the state park with my day care and climb trees in my back yard. In Florida, I used to watch what we called heat lightning at night (now I know that there's no such thing and it's just lightning from storms so far away you can't hear the thunder) and collect seashells at the beach. In Kentucky, I used to bring my sketch book out to the rolling hills by the big horse farms and draw. All the places I lived, nature had something wonderful to offer.

This month, see if you can find new ways to enjoy nature where you live. December is usually a busy month, but that's all the more reason to find some time to get away in nature. If there's snow where you live, you can go sledding or build snowmen or snow forts. If not, maybe you can explore a state park, go foraging, look for animal tracks, watch the meteor showers, make crafts from found nature items, feed wildlife, watch the birds, go rock climbing, make mud pies, go surfing, explore tide pools, visit a nature center, go rock hunting, cloud watch, take nature photos, have a picnic... or just go sit someplace outside and see what happens.

Wishing you a wonderful, wild month!

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 past issues and more at www.magicalchildhood.com/wildkids.

Go Wild in December

10 Ways to Learn and Play with Nature this Month

Gather pine boughs, branches, seed pods or pine cones to make decorations for your home

Take a box of 64 colors of crayons outside and see how many matches you can find in nature

Listen to the different bird songs in your neighborhood and see if you can learn to ID some birds by their songs

Make up an outdoor workout with fun ways to jump, balance, move, and use your muscles

Go for a walk and pretend you're an explorer stranded here 100 years ago. How could you use nature around you?

Make a popcorn garland for the birds (use yarn to make it safer for them)

Do something special to celebrate the winter solstice on the 21st, when the days start getting longer again (or the summer solstice in the Southern Hemisphere)

Take a picture at sunset every day that you can this month -- How different is the sky each day?

Print out the herbal cards in this issue and play with them

Stay up late to watch the Geminid meteor shower (peaking on the 14th)

Herbal Remedy Cards



Here are some printable cards showing wild plants that people have used for teas and for healing over the years. Do you recognize any of them from nature where you live?

You can use these cards lots of ways. Here are a few fun ways to use them...

Flash cards:

Print out the cards on card stock, printing on both sides of the paper if your printer allows it (otherwise just print one side, put them back in the printer, and print the backs on them) and cut them out. You can laminate them if you want so they'll last longer. Place them all picture side up or have someone hold them up for you to see, and see if you can name each plant.

Matching cards:

Print out two sets of the picture cards on card stock, leaving the backs blank (you don't need to print out the name pages). Cut them out and laminate them if you like to make them last longer. Spread them out on a table with the blank side facing you. Take turns turning over two cards and try to find matches. If you like, write the name of each plant on the photo so you learn the names as you play.

Foraging ID cards:

Print out the cards as you would for flash cards. Use a hole punch to punch a hole in the top left corner and put them on a key ring so you can take them with you outside and flip through them. If you like, make notes on the name side if you find that plant, noting things like where and when you found it.

The names of the herbs will print on the back side if your printer can print on two sides. You can also use these with the foraging card sets we had in the December 2021 and January 2022 issues. Look for more herbs in those sets!





Ox-eye Daisy

Hawthorn
Berries

Catmint

Mullein

Horsetail

Yarrow

Chicory

Arnica

Cleavers



Motherwort

Jewelweed

Bee Balm

Raspberry
Leaves

Spruce

Goldenrod

Pine

Thistle

Chamomile

Wild Kids Round-Up

What's your favorite thing to do in winter?

"Play in snow, make frozen bubbles and make snow creatures."

~Phoebe, 6



"Making a snowman!"

~Kaia, 6 and Gideon, 3



"We love to go sledding!!!"

~Carter, 10 and Sawyer, 6

"I like to build snowforts and snow people" ~Arlo, age 7



"Playing with my sled."

~Stirling, 3

"Playing in and eating snow!"

~Logan, 6

"Drinking cocoa by the fire."

~Charlie, 7



"My favorite is a snowman"

~Thea, 3



"Sledding!!!"

~Eli, age 10

Making snow hot chocolate!"

~Kaden, 3, Hallie, 6, and Makena, 8

Foraging Gift Tags

Color these gift tags with watercolor paint or colored pencils to personalize your gifts



TO:
FROM:



TO:
FROM:



TO:
FROM:



TO:
FROM:



TO:
FROM:



TO:
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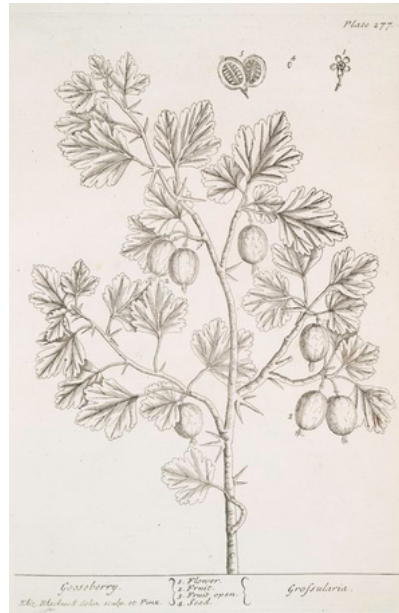
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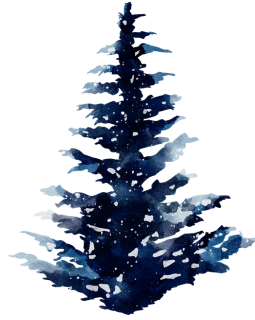


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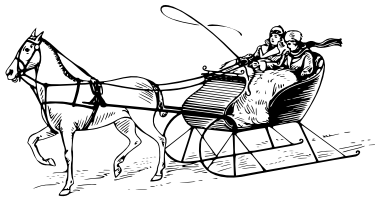
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Poems for December



Spellbound
By Emily Brontë

The night is darkening round me,
The wild winds coldly blow;
But a tyrant spell has bound me
And I cannot, cannot go.
The giant trees are bending
Their bare boughs weighed with snow.
And the storm is fast descending,
And yet I cannot go.
Clouds beyond clouds above me,
Wastes beyond wastes below;
But nothing drear can move me;
I will not, cannot go.



The First Sleigh-Ride
By Sara Teasdale

O happy time of fleecy rime
And falling flakes, and O
The glad surprise in the baby eyes
That never saw the snow!
Down shining ways the flying sleighs
Go jingling by, and see!
Beside the gate, the horses wait
And neigh for you and me!

Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening
By Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Thaw
By Eunice Tietjens

The snow is soft,
and how it squashes!
"Galumph, galumph!"
go my galoshes.



December



December Weather Tree



Rainy



Cloudy



Sunny



Snowy



December Bird List

Birds spotted this month

December Animal List

Mammals, reptiles & other wildlife spotted this month

December 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

MY FORAGING GUIDE FOR:

GENERAL SKETCH OF THE PLANT

CLOSE-UP SKETCHES OF PLANT PARTS

LATIN NAME _____

WHERE FOUND _____

PARTS USED _____

LOOKALIKES & HOW TO POSITIVELY ID:

WARNINGS: _____

FORAGING RECORD (DATES, WHERE FOUND, HOW IT WAS USED)

MY RATING FOR THIS PLANT





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.