

December 2024

WILD KIDS

SEASONAL NATURE EDUCATION FOR KIDS & THEIR GROWN UPS

Wreck These Pages
Winter Edition

2025 Wild Nature &
Astronomy Events

2024 Nature Wrap Up

Invasive Plant Gift Tags

Seasonal poems, activities,
nature journal pages and more!

From the editor

BY ALICIA BAYER

Happy December!

What are you hoping to do in nature this month?

Here in Minnesota, we are dealing with some very cold weather right now. Lately we've had warm, green Decembers in our area and I'm actually glad for the cold and snow for the holiday season -- if it lasts!

I am originally from California where we almost never had snow (and from a lot of other places!) and it took me a long time to get to the point where I like the cold and snow.

I've learned that there are good things about every season and every kind of weather. I really love the way winter and cold make nature look -- like when the trees look frosted and when the world looks black and white. I also like that winter forces us to cozy up inside and slow down. And it's an excuse to bake with all the wild goodies we foraged in the warmer months! It warms the house up and smells wonderful, plus it reminds us of the times we spent gathering them.

My kids love winter because they can ice skate on the frozen lakes, have snowball fights, make snow forts and sled.

What is the weather like in December where you live? What good things does it bring for you?

Wherever you live and whatever the weather, I hope you have a wild and wonderful 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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Contact: alicia.bayer@gmail.com



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

Go Wild in December

10 Ways to Learn and Play with Nature this Month

Make up a nature game to play and send it in to Wild Kids!

Get a box of 64 crayons and every day color that day of a calendar with a color you find in the sky or nature

Make a list of all the fun things you did in nature over the past year & all the plants you grew or foraged (we have a sheet for it in this issue)

Take a picture at the same time at the same place outside each day and see how things change over the month

Look for wild clay – we show you how in this issue

Stay up late to watch the Geminid meteor shower (peaking overnight on the 13th - 14th)

Count how many different kinds of birds you can ID this month

Celebrate the winter solstice on the 21st, when the days start getting longer again (or the summer solstice in the Southern Hemisphere)

Make a wild resolution for what you'd like to do in nature in 2025

Gather wild materials like grapevines or pine boughs to make a wreath

2025 WILD DAYS & NIGHTS

JANUARY

JANUARY 3, 4 QUADRANTIDS METEOR SHOWER
JANUARY 5 U.S. NATIONAL BIRD DAY
JANUARY 10 VENUS AT GREATEST EASTERN ELONGATION (EASIEST TO VIEW)
JANUARY 13 FULL MOON
JANUARY 16 MARS AT OPPOSITION. (CLOSEST & BRIGHTEST)

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 2 WORLD WETLANDS DAY
FEBRUARY 12 FULL MOON

MARCH

MARCH 3 WORLD WILDLIFE DAY
MARCH 8 MERCURY AT GREATEST EASTERN ELONGATION (EASIEST TO VIEW)
MARCH 14 FULL MOON, INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR RIVERS
MARCH 14 TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE
MARCH 20 MARCH EQUINOX (EQUAL AMOUNTS OF DAY & NIGHT, 1ST DAY OF SPRING)
MARCH 29 PARTIAL SOLAR ECLIPSE
MARCH 30 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO WASTE

APRIL

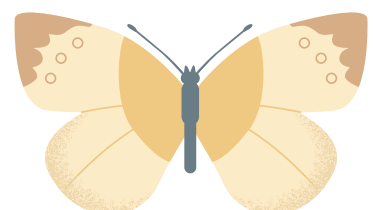
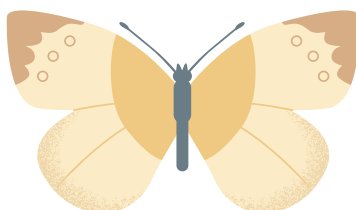
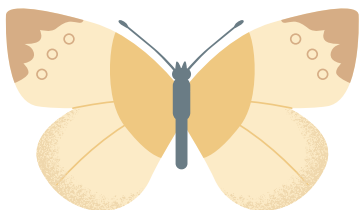
APRIL 13 FULL MOON
APRIL 21 MERCURY AT GREATEST WESTERN ELONGATION (EASIEST TO VIEW)
APRIL 22, 23 LYRIDS METEOR SHOWER
APRIL 26 ARBOR DAY
APRIL 22 EARTH DAY

MAY

MAY 6, 7 ETA AQUARIDS METEOR SHOWER
MAY 12 FULL MOON
MAY 25-31 BLACK BIRDERS WEEK
MAY 31 VENUS AT GREATEST WESTERN ELONGATION (EASIEST TO VIEW)

JUNE

JUNE 11 FULL MOON
JUNE 21 JUNE SOLSTICE, FIRST DAY OF SUMMER, LONGEST DAY





JULY

JULY 4 MERCURY AT GREATEST EASTERN ELONGATION (EASIEST TO VIEW)
JULY 10 FULL MOON
JULY 28 WORLD NATURE CONSERVATION DAY
JULY 28, 29 DELTA AQUARIDS METEOR SHOWER

AUGUST

AUGUST 9 FULL MOON
AUGUST 12, 13 PERSEIDS METEOR SHOWER
AUGUST 19 MERCURY AT GREATEST WESTERN ELONGATION (EASIEST TO VIEW)

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 1 WORLD BEACH DAY
SEPTEMBER 7 FULL MOON
SEPTEMBER 7 TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE
SEPTEMBER 21 PARTIAL SOLAR ECLIPSE
SEPTEMBER 21 SATURN AT OPPOSITION (EASIEST TO VIEW)
SEPTEMBER 22 SEPTEMBER EQUINOX (EQUAL LENGTH OF DAY & NIGHT), 1ST DAY OF FALL
SEPTEMBER 22 CAR FREE DAY
SEPTEMBER 23 NEPTUNE AT OPPOSITION (EASIEST TO VIEW)

OCTOBER

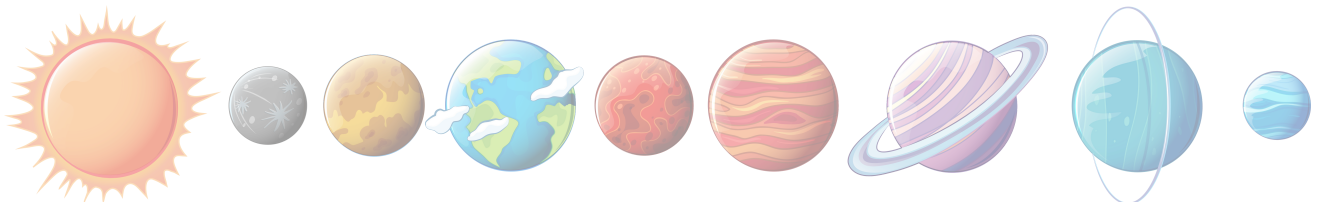
OCTOBER 7 FULL MOON, SUPERMOON
OCTOBER 7 DRACONIDS METEOR SHOWER
OCTOBER 21, 22 ORIONIDS METEOR SHOWER
OCTOBER 29 MERCURY AT GREATEST EASTERN ELONGATION

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 4, 5 TAURIDS METEOR SHOWER
NOVEMBER 5 FULL MOON, SUPERMOON
NOVEMBER 17, 18 LEONIDS METEOR SHOWER
NOVEMBER 21 URANUS AT OPPOSITION (EASIEST TO VIEW)

DECEMBER

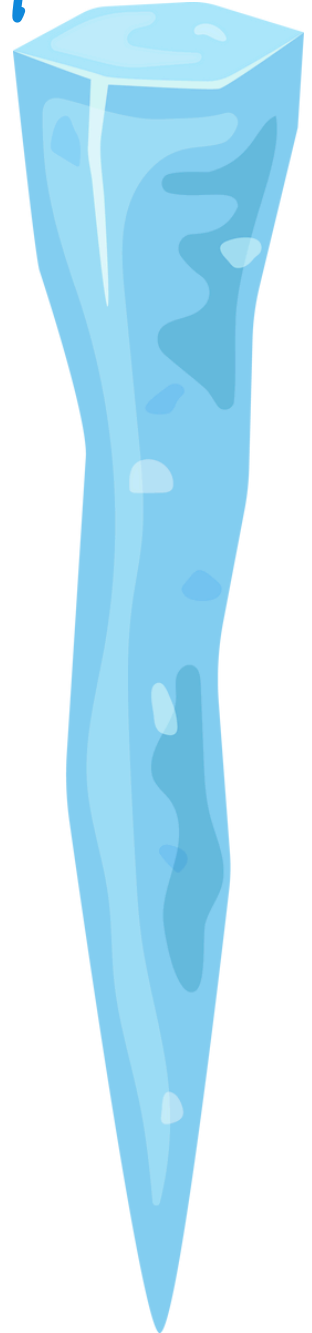
DECEMBER 4 FULL MOON, SUPERMOON
DECEMBER 7 MERCURY AT GREATEST WESTERN ELONGATION
DECEMBER 13, 14 GEMINIDS METEOR SHOWER
DECEMBER 21 DECEMBER SOLSTICE (SHORTEST DAY), FIRST DAY OF WINTER
DECEMBER 21, 22 URSIDS METEOR SHOWER



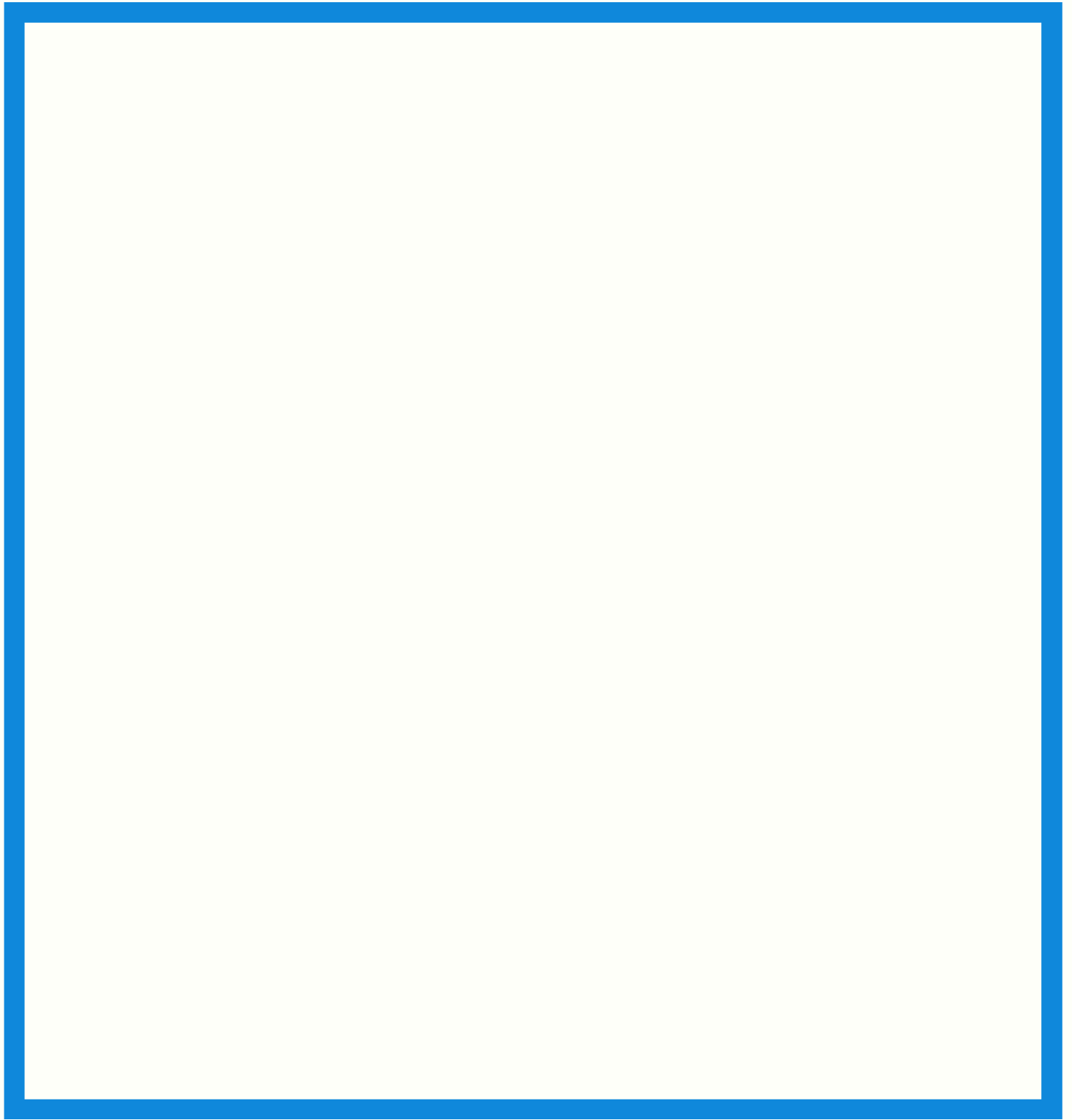
Winter Edition

Use nature to

Wreck
These
Pages!

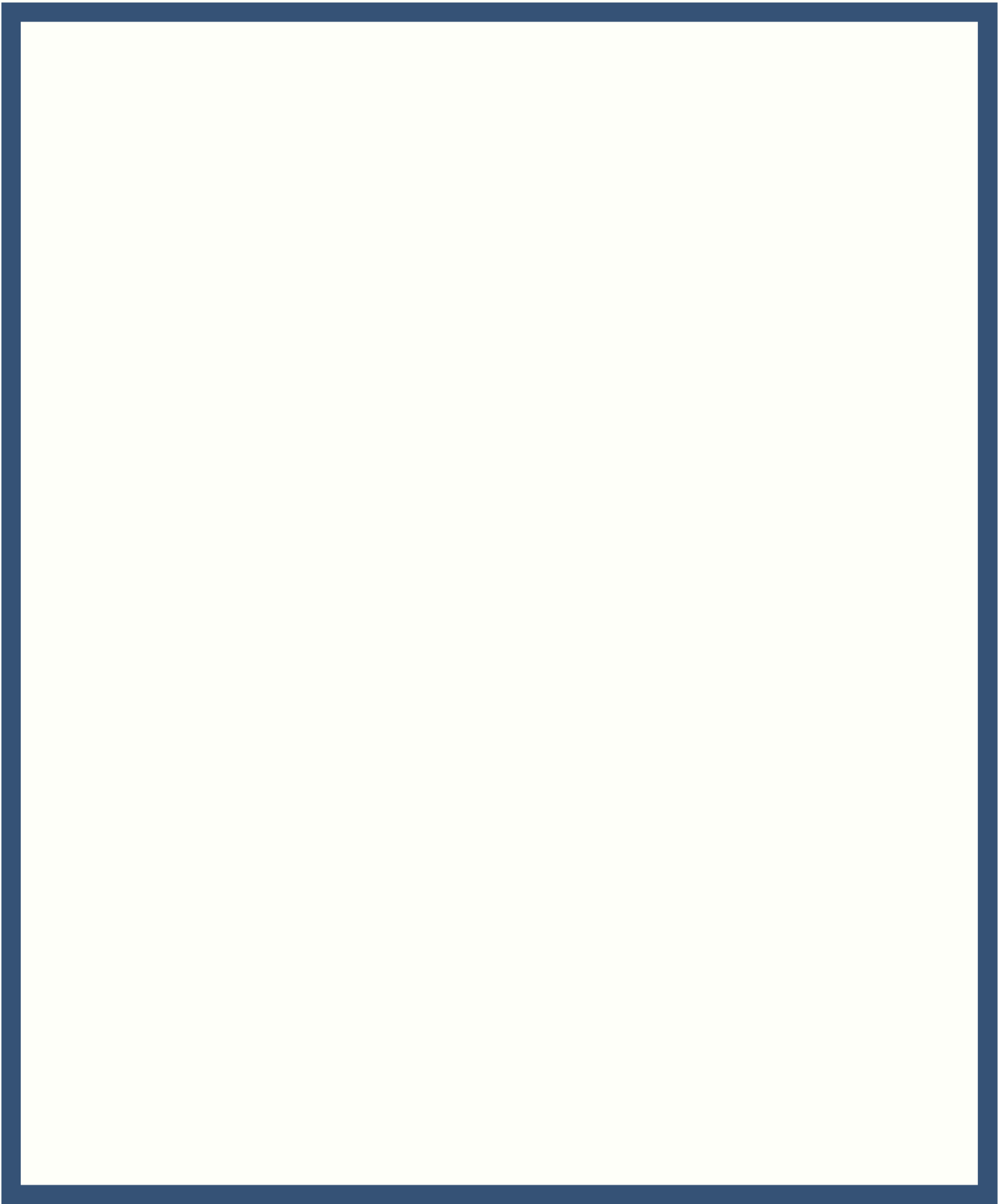


Let's have some art fun with nature! Take the following pages outside and make a marvelous mess with the things you find.



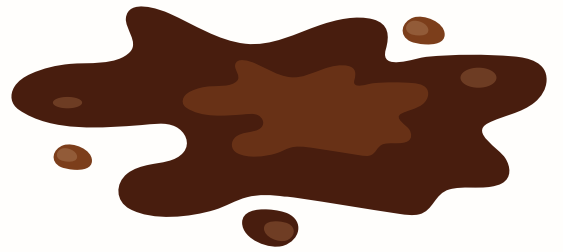
Alter your artwork with snowballs or wet nature

Color this page with markers (not waterproof ones!) or paint it with watercolor paint, and then cover it with some little snowballs or anything wet (wet leaves, mud, whatever) and let it sit. Shake it off and let it dry after a few hours and let it dry to see how it has changed.

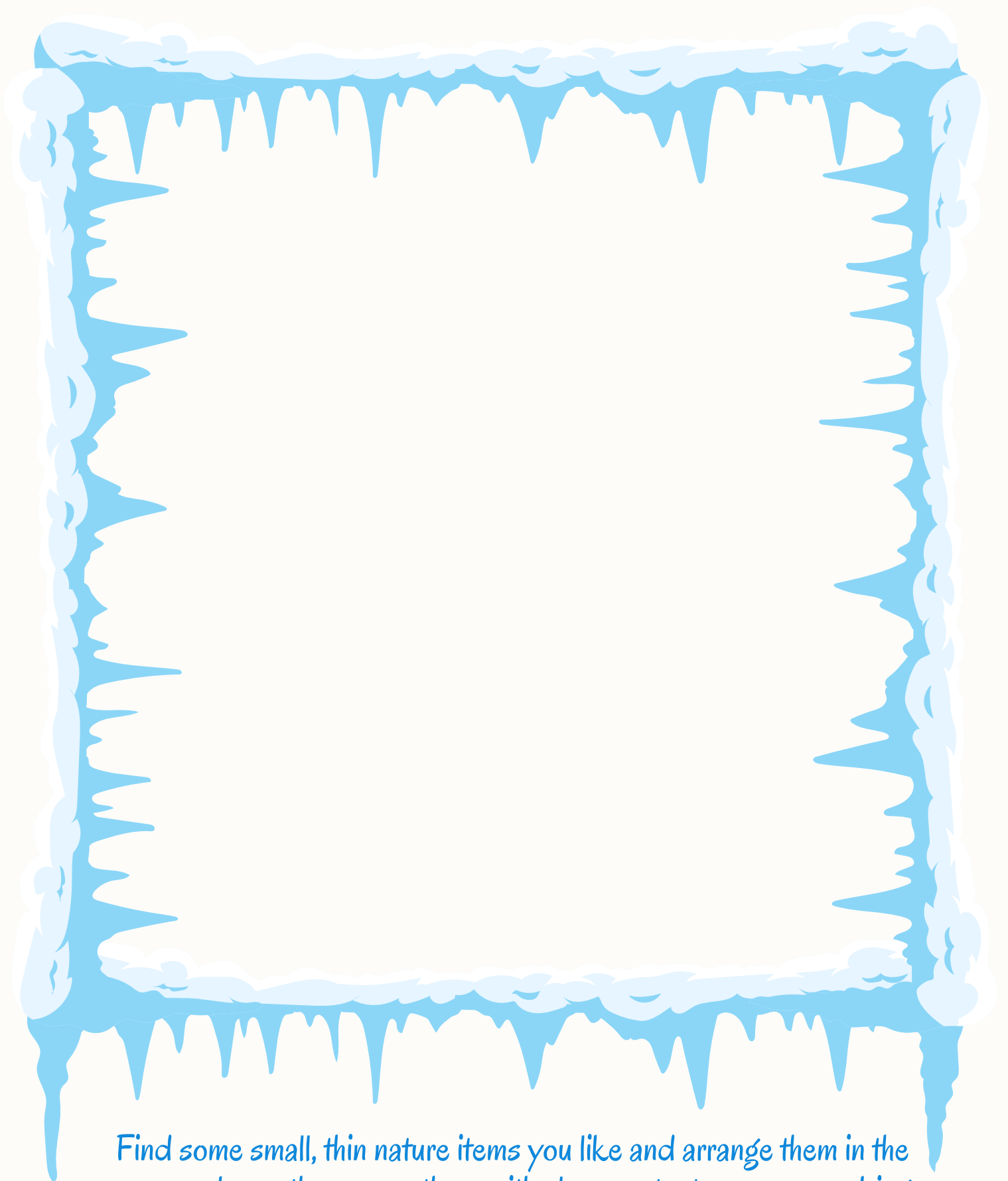


Make a boot print!

Head outside in boots or shoes with a fun tread mark and get them muddy, then stomp on this page.



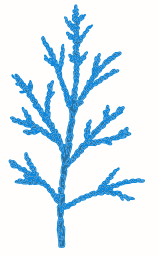
Dribble muddy water on this page in a design.



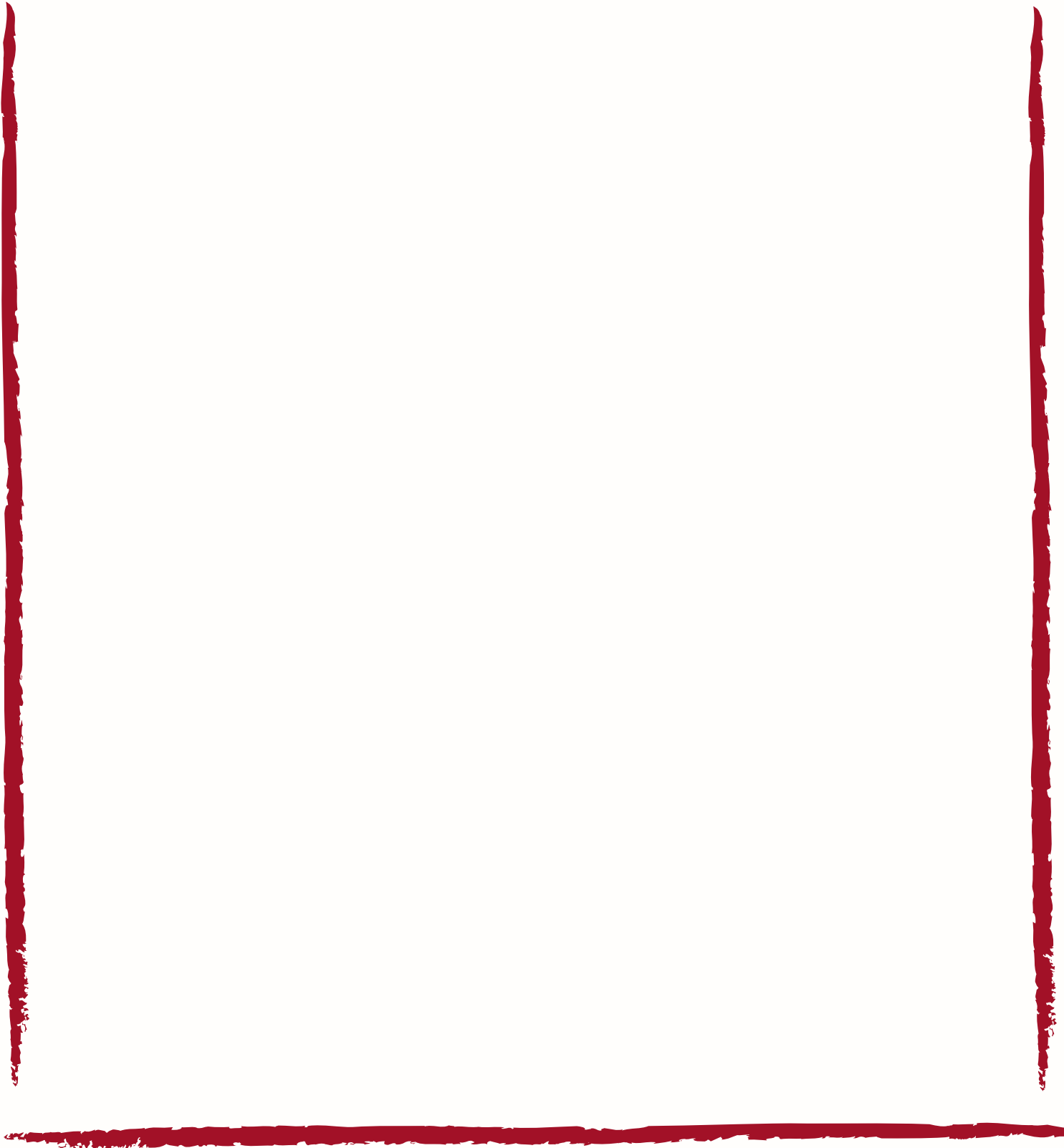
Find some small, thin nature items you like and arrange them in the square above, then cover them with clear contact paper or packing tape to keep them in place and preserve them.



Hunt for fallen leaves and evergreen needles and put them under this page.
Rub the side of a crayon all over the paper above each one to make rubbings.



Look for winter berries like rose hips, wintergreen berries, hawthorn berries, highbush cranberries, bearberries, dogwood berries and even tiny crab apples and arrange them on this page. Try to find at least two kinds to compare how they smash! Pound them with a mallet or round rock to leave imprints.





Paint with wild paintbrushes
Gather some wild items like feathers, dried grasses and pine boughs and use them to paint a picture on this page.



Make a sun pattern

Find pretty natural items like feathers and dried grasses and arrange them on this page. Cover them with a piece of glass or clear plastic like from a picture frame. Keep it safe from rain/snow and put it outside or in a sunny window for a week or more for the sun to bleach a pattern.

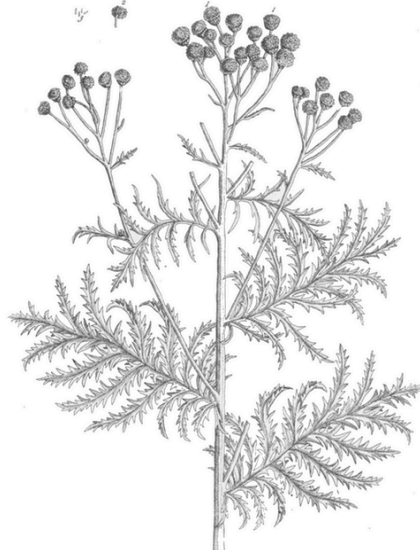
Wild Plant Gift Tags

These are some of the wild plants we learned about in Wild Kids this year. 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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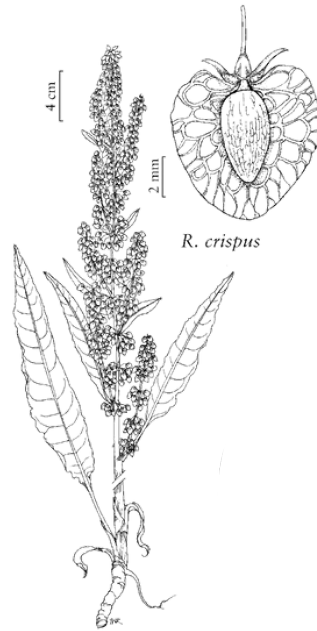
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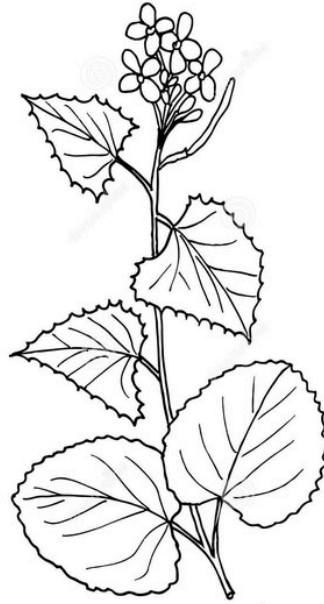
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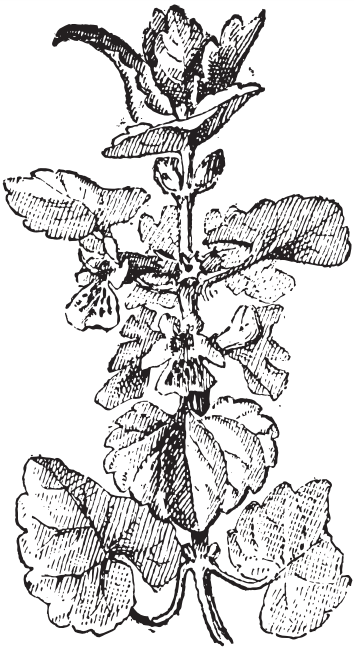
TO:

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2024 Wild Memories

Favorite things I did in nature

Wild places I went





2024 Wild Memories

Birds & Animals I saw

A large rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for writing notes about birds and animals seen during the year.

Plants I grew or foraged

A large rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for writing notes about plants grown or foraged during the year.

Poems for December



It sifts from Leaden Sieves
By Emily Dickinson

It sifts from Leaden Sieves -
It powders all the Wood.
It fills with Alabaster Wool
The Wrinkles of the Road -

It makes an even Face
Of Mountain, and of Plain -
Unbroken Forehead from the East
Unto the East again -

It reaches to the Fence -
It wraps it Rail by Rail
Till it is lost in Fleeces -
It deals Celestial Vail

To Stump, and Stack - and Stem -
A Summer's empty Room -
Acres of Joints, where Harvests were,
Recordless, but for them -

It Ruffles Wrists of Posts
As Ankles of a Queen -
Then stills it's Artisans - like Ghosts -
Denying they have been -

Green Groweth the Holly
By Henry VIII, King of England

Green groweth the holly,
So doth the ivy.
Though winter blasts blow never so high,
Green groweth the holly.

As the holly groweth green
And never changeth hue,
So I am, ever hath been,
Unto my lady true.

As the holly groweth green
With ivy all alone
When flowers cannot be seen
And greenwood leaves be gone,

Now unto my lady
Promise to her I make,
From all other only
To her I me betake.

Adieu, mine own lady,
Adieu, my special
Who hath my heart truly
Be sure, and ever shall.



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.