November 2026

WILD KIDS

SEASONAL NATURE EDUCATION FOR KIDS & THEIR GROWN UPS



November Wild Adventure BINGO

November Nature Notes & Photo Prompts

Staying Safe from Foraging Look-alikes

Multiply with Sticks!

With seasonal activities, poetry, nature journal pages & more

From the editor

BY ALICIA BAYER

Happy November!

What are you hoping to do in nature this month?

Here in Minnesota, it is still pretty warm, which is unusual for us. We used to have a lot of snow by November but I even still have tomatoes and basil growing in my garden!

I'm hoping to take advantage of the warm days by doing some more foraging and harvesting this month. I still have a lot of mints in my gardens, like catmint, chocolate mint and lemon balm. I plan to dry some of those for teas and also make some tinctures and extracts from some of them.

I'm also planning to harvest a lot of seeds for next year. I'll dry them and package them up, and then some of them I'll use in my own gardens and some of them I'll share with my library's seed swap.

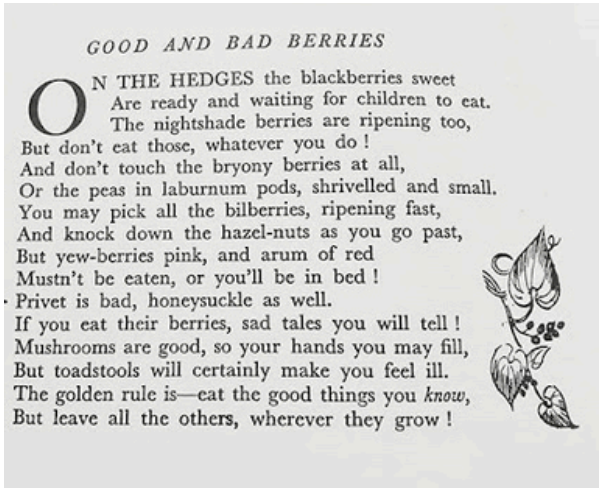
Does your library have a seed swap? They're very common these days and they're a great way to get free seeds and to share your extras with others. You are usually able to take a few packets for free even if you have nothing to swap, because libraries want to help people start gardens. Libraries are some of my favorite places for so many reasons!

I'm also hoping to take lots of hikes this month and lots of nature photos. I've brought in a lot of my potted plants from outside to have a little bit of nature inside all winter, like geraniums and mums that will flower as houseplants during the cold winter. I have a lot of houseplants already but I do like having a jungle in the wintertime when I don't get to spend as much time outside in nature. I even have a little lemon tree that my friend Tiffany planted from a seed in her grocery store lemon. It has ferocious spikes and smells really wonderful when you rub its leaves.

If you don't have houseplants but would like some, remember that there are lots of ways to grow them for free – ask friends for cuttings that you can root, pot up something from the yard, or even grow some of your grocery store seeds.

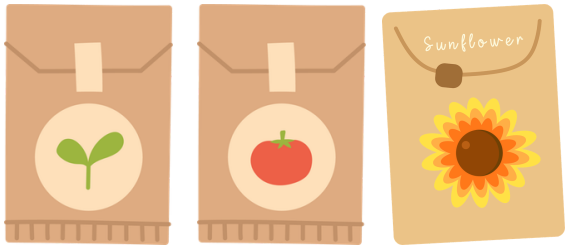
Wherever you are in the world, I hope you have a fantastic month with lots of wild adventures!

Alicia



GOOD AND BAD BERRIES

ON THE HEDGES the blackberries sweet
Are ready and waiting for children to eat.
The nightshade berries are ripening too,
But don't eat those, whatever you do!
And don't touch the bryony berries at all,
Or the peas in laburnum pods, shrivelled and small.
You may pick all the bilberries, ripening fast,
And knock down the hazel-nuts as you go past,
But yew-berries pink, and arum of red
Mustn't be eaten, or you'll be in bed!
Privet is bad, honeysuckle as well.
If you eat their berries, sad tales you will tell!
Mushrooms are good, so your hands you may fill,
But toadstools will certainly make you feel ill.
The golden rule is—eat the good things you *know*,
But leave all the others, wherever they grow!



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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Go Wild in November

10 Ways to Play & Learn with Nature this Month

Follow a live webcam of an animal or place you'd like to watch for a few minutes each day, like bears, bogs or birds *

Find soft rocks in several colors and draw a picture on a large rock or the sidewalk with them

Paint some sticks and tie them to a branch or post as natural wind chimes

Take an egg carton out into nature and collect wildflower seeds

Look for the full moon supermoon on November 24

Spread peanut butter or sunbutter on a pine cone and press on some bird seed, and hang it in a tree to feed the birds

Play nature wild adventure BINGO (in this issue)

Look for the Taurids meteor shower in a dark place on the nights of November 4th & 5th or the Leonids Meteor Shower on the 17th & 18th

Take a photo or do some art in nature & send it to Wild Kids!

Visit the library & check out some fun nature books

*Many organizations have their own webcams, such as the National Parks Service, Cornell for birds, and states like Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources

November
Wild adventure Bingo

How to Play: Head out into nature and and try to have some wild adventures. Make an x over the ones you do and try to get a BINGO either across, down, or diagonally. To make it a bigger challenge, you could try to get a blackout by marking off every square this month.

The activities are: Climb a tree, collect fall leaves, go rock hunting, pick up litter, identify animal tracks, gather pine cones or other natural items for crafting, go beach combing, bird watch, take a moonlit walk, play in the mud, find wild mushrooms, go camping, do crayon leaf rubbings, go foraging, go hiking, watch the clouds, identify scat, scatter native seeds, watch wildlife, star gaze, go boating, visit a park, watch a sunset, take nature photos

How many can you do?

				
				
		**FREE**		
				
				

Use Sticks to Multiply!



Stick multiplication is a really cool way to play with math! Some people call it Japanese stick multiplication, Chinese stick multiplication and a bunch of other names. It is believed to have started in Asia thousands of years ago but nobody really knows. What we do know is that it's a fun way to do multiplication and see how place values work.

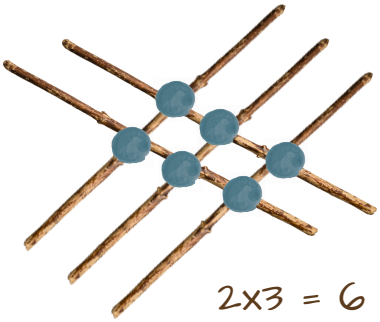


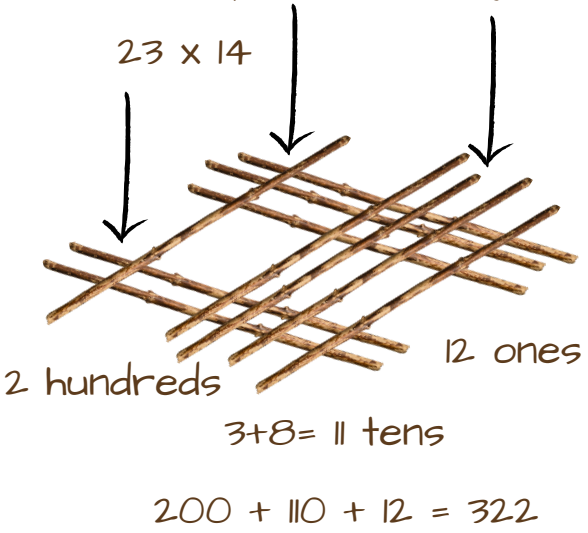
Head outside and gather some small, thin sticks (how many depends on how big your numbers are going to be). Then lay your sticks out to represent the first number you want to multiply, with a row of sticks for each digit and a space in between them.

For example, 23 would be two sticks (for two tens or twenty), a space, and then three sticks (for three ones). If you wanted to multiply it by 2, then you would lay 2 rows of sticks across them. If you wanted to multiply it by 22, then you would lay two sticks across them, leave a space, and lay another two sticks across. You can even multiply by hundreds and further, just making a row for each ones, tens, hundreds, etc.



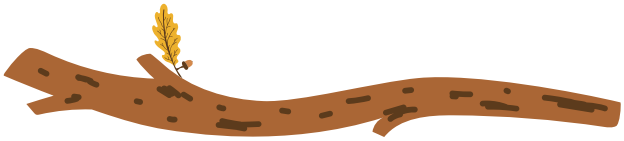
Now just start at the right side and count the intersections where they cross. The far right number of intersecting lines is the ones column, next over (on top and bottom) is the tens column, then the hundreds and so on. Just like other types of multiplication, you carry (or regroup) if you have more than 9 in any column and just add one more to the column to the left of it (so if you add 8 and 3 and get 11 tens, that means 1 hundred and 1 ten).





It sounds complicated until you get it, but it's kind of cool once you understand what you're doing!

It's a fun way to play with math, not necessarily one to do instead of traditional ways. And now you can tell people you know how to use sticks as a calculator!



How to know helpful plants from dangerous lookalikes

Sometimes there are really great plants that we can forage that have dangerous look-alikes. Some people avoid foraging at all because they're so worried about accidentally collecting or eating the wrong plant. That makes sense because we should never forage a plant that we're not absolutely sure about. But the good news is that it's pretty easy to learn how to tell the difference!

Think about some of your good friends. Maybe they have a lot of things in common with other people, like brown hair or freckles or blue eyes. Once you really know a person, you are able to pretty easily know if it's them even if they are kind of similar to other people. Someone else might be about the same height with the same hairstyle, but their eyes might be rounder and their voice might sound completely different.

Plants are like that too. That's why it's so important to know about all different elements of a plant instead of just a few things like they are a vine with blue fruits.

When you get to know a plant to forage it, get in the habit of learning all about it. Where does it grow? How big does it get? What do the leaves look like? What do the flowers look like? Does it have a smell? When does it fruit? What kind of plant is it, like a shrub or a vine or a tree? What other plants have parts that look similar and how are they different?

There are a few kinds of mushrooms that are just too hard to tell apart, like the little brown mushrooms you see in lawns and forests. There are so many thousands of species of them that look like others and even mushroom experts can't tell a lot of them apart. They actually call them LBMs – Little Brown Mushrooms – and tell people to just avoid foraging all of them.

Most plants are very easy to positively identify once you get to know them, though. The trick is knowing not to just look at the easy stuff!





Queen Anne's lace vs. poison hemlock





Ramps vs. lily-of-the-valley

Most plants are very easy to positively identify once you get to know all different things about them.



For instance, the leaves and flowers of Queen Anne's lace (a pretty plant sometimes called wild carrot) look a lot like poison hemlock. People made up a saying to help tell them apart - "The queen has hairy legs" because the stems of Queen Anne's lace are hairy (and solid) and the stems of poison hemlock are smooth (and hollow, with purple splotches). Sometimes they would also add "and a red heart" because there is often one dark flower in the very center of Queen Anne's lace blossoms. They also made up a story that Queen Anne had made the lacy flowers and pricked her finger on the needle, making the red dot.

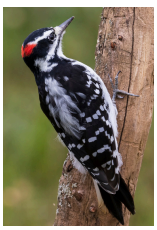


If you learn even more about Queen Anne's lace, you also find out that the leaves smell a lot like carrots because they're so closely related. The more you really get to know Queen Anne's lace, the more you "know her" when you see her like you would know a friend.

It's the same with ramps (with delicious leaves that taste like onion and garlic) and lily-of-the-valley (with leaves that look the same but are poisonous). The leaves look the same, but lily-of-the-valley has white flowers and tends to grow around houses instead of in forests. The roots look different too, and there are lots of other differences you can learn once you get to know both plants. But easiest of all, if you rip a ramp leaf you will smell strong onion-garlic scent.

Remember when you learn about plants to try to learn about all different things about them, just the way you learn all different things about your friends.





The same thing is true with other things in nature too, from frogs to rocks to woodpeckers. For instance, the downy woodpecker and the hairy woodpecker look very similar but the downy woodpecker is only about 6 inches (the hairy woodpecker is about 9) and they have different sounds. The downy woodpecker sounds like a whinny and the hairy woodpecker makes sharp peek noises.

November

Nature Photo Prompts

Try to head outside and take a picture each day with that day's prompt as an inspiration!



1	Holes	11	Yellow	21	Bark
2	Pale	12	Damaged	22	Round
3	Up close	13	Rock	23	White
4	Parallel	14	Insect	24	Native
5	Cracked	15	Shadow	25	Curly
6	Seed	16	Gray	26	High
7	Hidden	17	Sharp	27	Striped
8	Web	18	Lots	28	Brown
9	Sky	19	Edible	29	Unique
10	Mysterious	20	Colorful	30	Strong





November nature notes



Each day this month, write or draw something to remember from nature that day like seeing a hawk, going to the state park, having the first snow or finding a wild mushroom.

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30

Queen Anne's Lace
(Daucus carota)



Poison Hemlock

(Conium maculatum)



November Poetry

November Morning
by Evaleen Stein



A tingling, misty marvel
Blew hither in the night,
And now the little peach-trees
Are clasped in frozen light.

Upon the apple-branches
An icy film is caught,
With trailing threads of gossamer
In pearly patterns wrought.

The autumn sun, in wonder,
Is gayly peering through
This silver-tissued network
Across the frosty blue.



The weather-vane is fire-tipped,
The honeysuckle shows
A dazzling icy splendor,
And crystal is the rose.

Around the eaves are fringes
Of icicles that seem
To mock the summer rainbows
With many-colored gleam.

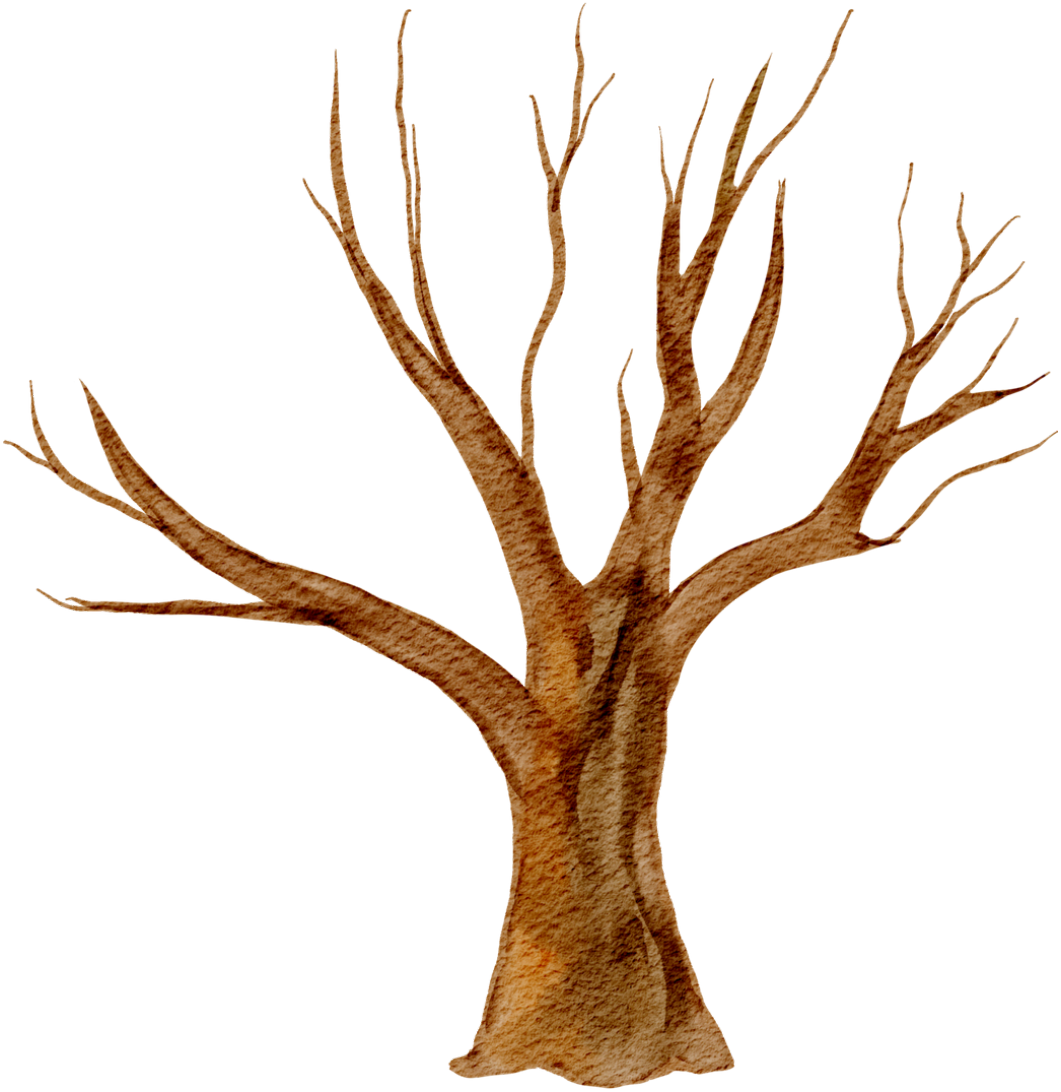
Along the walk, the pebbles
Are each a precious stone;
The grass is tasseled hoarfrost,
The clover jewel-sown.



Such sparkle, sparkle, sparkle
Fills all the frosty air,
Oh, can it be that darkness
Is ever anywhere!

My Nature Journal

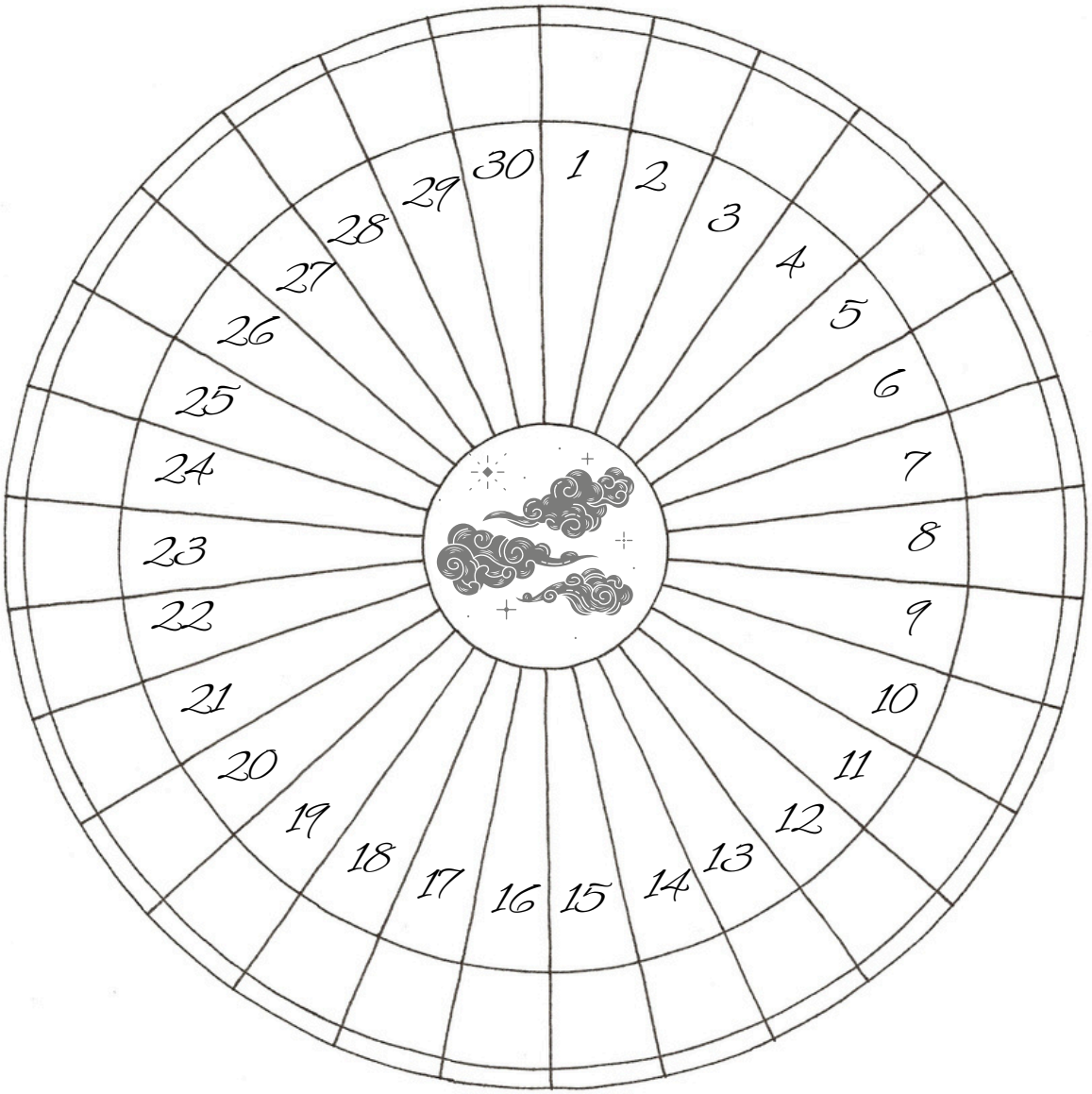
November



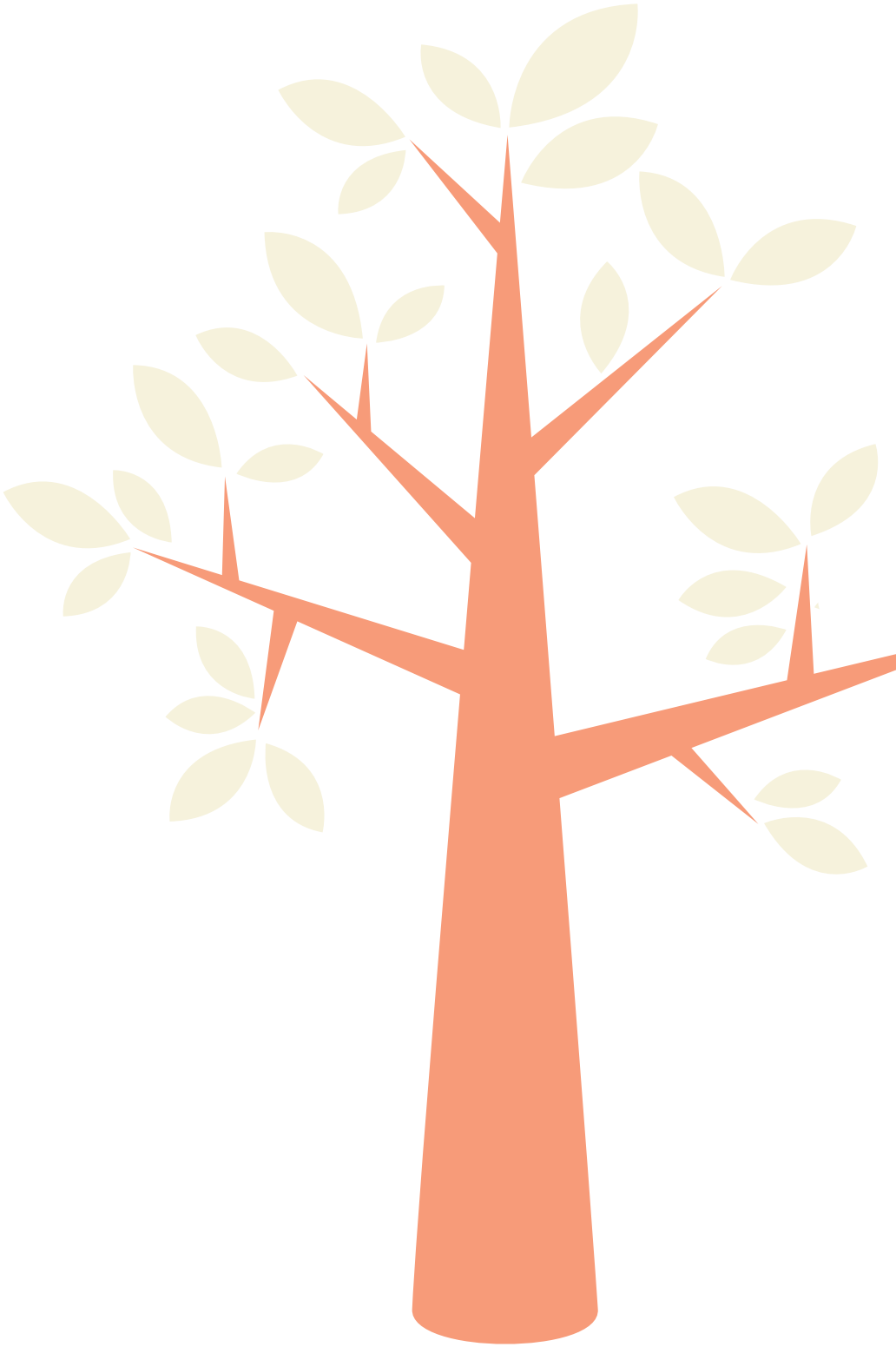
NOVEMBER SKYWHEEL

Color a record of your observations of the sky in November!

Paint or color in how the sky looks each day this month,
at a certain time like when you wake up or at lunch time.
Is it cloudy? Gray? Does it match any crayons in a big box of crayons?
Are there big fluffy clouds? Did you see lightning, rain, fog or a rainbow?
At the end of the month, look back and see what trends you can see for the month.



November Weather Tree



Key

- Sunny
- Cloudy
- Rainy
- Snowy
- Stormy

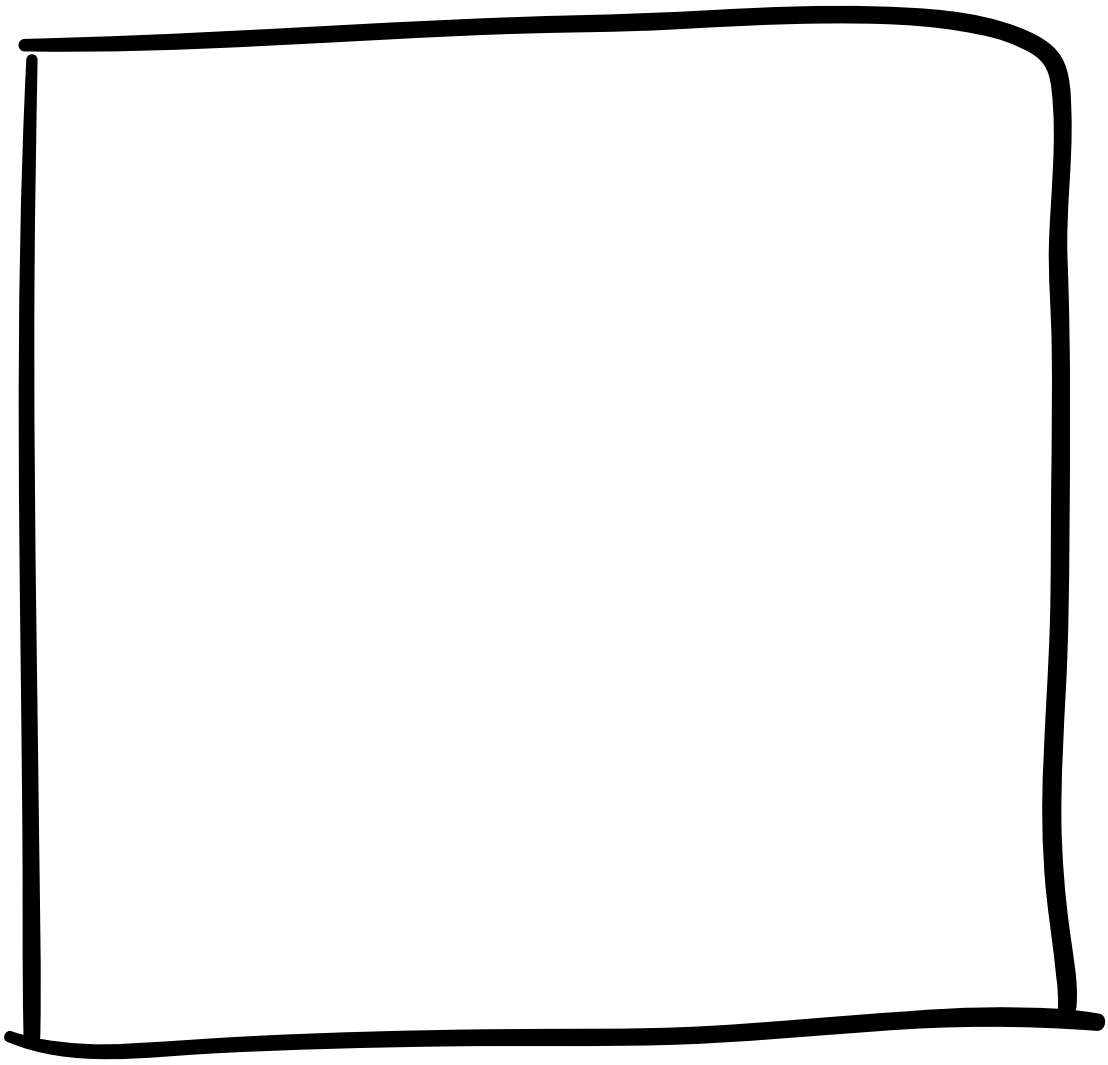
Nature Study Close Up

I found: _____

Latin name: _____

Where found: _____

Date/Time of Day: _____



Notes: _____

_____

November Bird List

Birds spotted this month

November Animal List

Mammals, reptiles & other wildlife spotted this month

November 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

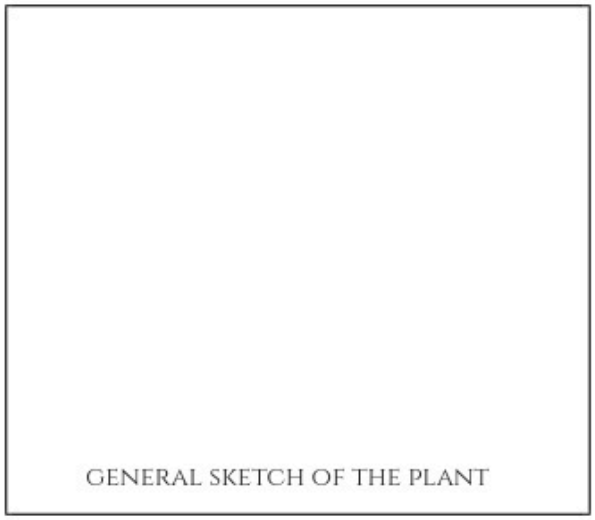
Week 2 Observations

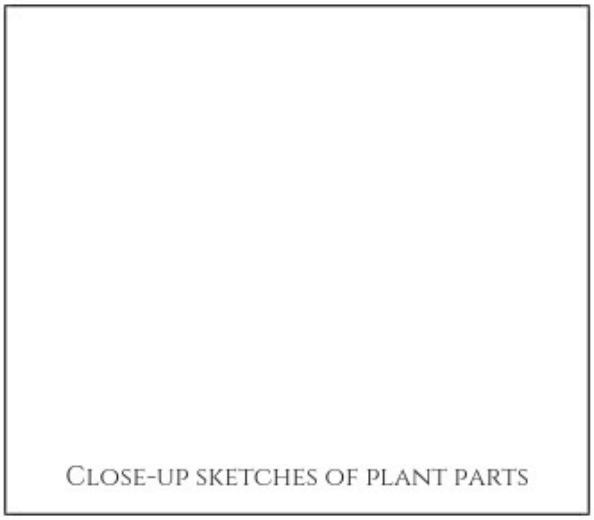
Week 3 Observations

Week 4 Observations

My Foraging Guide for:

_____





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 ☆☆☆☆☆

Wild Kids Magazine

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.