



Nature Study

Each Friday morning, you will go through two of our nature cards. They are labeled in the upper right corner with the corresponding week. These are short, factual cards with images to help your child become familiar with objects in the natural world.

As you progress through our sessions, you may find it handy to keep your past nature cards in a binder for easy reference when your children come across a familiar object. These seeds you are planting will grow into a wonderful garden of knowledge for your children in years to come.

As you explore nature outside your home, watch and listen for newly discovered delights. Most of all, remember...

"Point to some lovely flower or gracious tree, not only as a beautiful work, but as a beautiful thought of God."

~ Charlotte Mason

Nature Study



Canadian Lynx 1

Lynx canadensis

- The lynx's unusually large paws serve as snowshoes in its wintry habitat.
- Lynx have up to 1-5 kittens once a year.

- These creatures are more active at night and are normally found alone.
- They can spot a mouse up to the incredible distance of 250 feet away!
- They have excellent eyesight, even at night! The name lynx comes from the Greek word leukos, which means 'to shine.' This may be because the lynx's eyes tend to shine in the darkness.
- Owning a lynx is actually legal in certain states.
- Lynx are known for the black tips on their ears and tail. The purpose of these markings is not certain, but the ear marking could be used to further its hearing abilities or to allow them to sense their environment.



Snowshoe Hare 1

Lepus americanus

- Their coats change colors with the seasons. In winter, their coat is snowy white, but when the snow melts in spring, their coats turn brown.

- Like its predator, the lynx, the snowshoe hare has extra padding on its paws so it can travel on the snow easier.
- Interestingly, the snowshoe hare will eat meat from the carcass of other animals as a source of protein.
- This rabbit is equipped with many defensive tactics. They can jump 10 feet in the air, run 27mph, change direction in an instant, and even swim!
- They eat at night.
- They can live up to three years in the wild.



Cheetah 2

Acinonyx jubatus

- A cheetah can reach its top speed in 3 seconds!

- The cheetah is the fastest land animal in the world, reaching speeds of 75mph!
- In the picture, you can see a noticeable line running from the cheetah's eyes to its mouth. This is called a tear mark, and is designed to reflect the hot savanna sun.
- Cheetahs, unlike other cats, do not have retractable claws. Like a football player's cleats, a cheetah's claws are designed to provide traction while running.
- Its tail is like a rudder, controlling direction and keeping the cat's body in balance.
- There are only about 8,000 in the world, making this amazing cat an endangered species.
- There is no record of a cheetah killing a human.



Gazelle 2

Gazella

- They can live up to 15yrs in the wild.

- They live in herds.
- Male antelope have longer horns than females.
- They don't have to drink much water, because they can extract water from their food!
- Baby gazelles are called fawns or calves.
- Gazelles rarely have more than one fawn at a time.
- Males are so territorial they live in their own herds.
- The gazelle can run up to 60mph in short bursts, but it can only sustain a speed of 40mph.



Barred Owl

Strix varia

3

- These owls are very territorial, and will strike with their claws at any unwanted creature.
- Unlike other owls, the barred owl has brown eyes.
- They can live up to 23 years!
- Its call sounds like a loud "Who cooks for you?"
- They will actually wade in water when they hunt for crayfish!
- Some barred owls have pink belly feathers! This may be from eating crayfish.
- It is named after the barred marking on its chest.
- They have a 15 in wingspan.



Eastern Gray Squirrel

Sciurus carolinensis

3

- They can live up to 20 years in captivity!
- These squirrels are extremely territorial and claim more than one area.
- They have babies twice a year, having 2-4 young.
- They prefer making their homes in the forest trees.
- When extremely hungry, squirrels will eat tiny birds, eggs, and even small snakes!
- Surprisingly, they are trainable.
- In Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory, the squirrels were actually live, trained squirrels!
- They will pretend to bury their acorns in a different spot than they will actually put them to throw off other animals who may be watching.



Red Fox

Vulpes vulpes

4

- They can be found in many places all over the world, including North America, Australia, Europe, and Asia.
- A group of foxes is called a skulk.
- They can hear a clock tick from up to 40 yds. away!
- They have excellent night vision.
- One way foxes communicate with each other is through facial expressions! Additionally, they have the ability to communicate with 28 separate sounds!
- It is active in the daytime and at nighttime.
- It usually sleeps under the stars, but mothers will seek out a den.
- They are the smallest species of dog!



Eastern Cottontail

Sylvilagus floridanus

4

- Cottontail rabbits do not live in groups.
- They stay active mostly in the twilight hour.
- Female rabbits are called does, males are bucks, and babies are kits.
- When escaping a predator, these rabbits will run in a zig-zag pattern to make it harder for the predator to stay on their scent.
- They are very good at camouflaging their burrows. They will line the outside with fur and grasses, making their homes very hard to spot.
- The mother only comes by the burrow about twice a day to avoid drawing attention to her kits.