



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

1

Bat *Chiroptera*

- There are over one thousand different bat species
- Bats are able to see in the dark due to echolocation.
- They make noises and fly based on the sound waves that bounce back off of objects.
- Bats' diets consist mainly of insects. They also indulge in fruit, fish, or even blood sometimes.
- Bats can live for over 20 years.
- Bats are the only mammals capable of continuous flight.



1

Raccoon *Procyon lotor*

- Raccoons are omnivores. They eat fruit, seeds, nuts, birds' eggs, and plants. They are also known for scavenging through trash for scraps.
- Raccoons don't hibernate, but they do sleep for extended periods of time throughout the winter season.
- Raccoons are excellent swimmers. Sometimes they swim to hunt for fish and frogs.
- Raccoons live up to three years in the wild. In captivity, they can live up to twenty years.
- Raccoons are very fast, using their speed to climb up trees when they sense danger.



2

Badger *Meles meles*

- There are eleven species of badgers throughout the world.
- A male badger is called a boar, a female is known as a sow.
- A group of badgers is called a cete or clan. These groups consist of up to 15 badgers.
- Badgers spend much of their lives underground.
- They dig burrows as their homes.
- Badgers don't hibernate in the winter, but they go into a deep sleep called torpor where their body temperature and heart beat decline.



Armadillo

Dasyus novemcinctus

- There are twenty varieties of armadillos. All but one of these varieties live in Latin America.
- Armadillos dig burrows and spend almost sixteen hours per day sleeping.
- Armadillos rely on their sense of smell to hunt due to their poor eyesight.
- Armadillos have long sticky tongues that they use to reach ants and termites in their tunnels.
- Only the three-banded armadillos can retract themselves completely into their shells.



3

Owl

Tyto javanica stertens



- Owls cannot move their eyes. They turn their heads in different directions in order to see.
- There are over two hundred different types of owls.
- A group of owls is referred to as a parliament.
- Owls' powerful, sharp talons are what allow them to whisk up their prey from the ground mid-flight.
- Owls are farsighted. They are unable to see things close to their eyes clearly.

3

Kangaroo

Macropus rufus



- Kangaroos can jump up to three times their own height.
- Kangaroos are able to swim.
- A group of kangaroos is known as a mob, troop, or court.
- Kangaroos live up to six years in the wild.
- There are four different kangaroo species: the Red, Antilopine, Eastern Grey, and Western Grey Kangaroo.

4

Skunk

Mephitis mephitis



- Skunks do not want to spray their musk. They have a limited amount and once it disappears, it takes quite some time to replenish.
- Skunks do not want to blend in with their environment. Their black and white markings make this easy to accomplish.
- Skunks can spray in two ways: they either send a stream of spray or a more covering mist.
- Skunks are omnivores. They eat both plants and animals.
- Skunks have poor eyesight but excellent hearing and smell.

4

Porcupine

Erethizon dorsatum



- Porcupines belong to the rodent family.
- Porcupines can be covered in up to 30,000 quills.
- Porcupines are unable to shoot their quills. When a predator gets close, the quills will fall out and usually end up in the predator.
- Porcupines are vocal creatures, using grunts or screeches to communicate.
- Porcupines live between five and seven years in the wild.

5

Beaver *Castor*



- Beavers create dams made out of wood and mud to create a home of deep, still water that they use to protect against predators.
- Beavers are the second largest rodent in the world.
- Beavers have a set of transparent eyelids that allow them to see underwater.
- Beavers are slow on land but are fast swimmers. They can stay underwater for up to 15 minutes.
- Beavers are herbivores, meaning they feast on plants.

5

Hamster *Cricetinae*



- There are many different species of hamsters, but only five species are commonly kept as pets.
- Hamsters live in burrows underground. They remain there throughout the day and roam outside at night.
- Hamsters are color-blind and nearsighted.
- Hamsters rely on scent, rubbing their glands on objects as they wander around to find their way.
- Hamsters eat seeds, fruits, vegetables, and small insects.

6

Leopard *Panthera pardus*



- Leopards hunt their prey at night. When they capture their prey, they drag it up into a tree.
- Leopards are excellent swimmers and climbers.
- A leopard's tail is as long as its entire body. This allows them to make turns quickly and helps with their overall balance.
- Adult leopards have their own territories and prefer to live in solitude.
- Leopard spots are named "rosettes" because they are thought to resemble the shape of roses.
- Leopards can make a variety of sounds, and can even purr when they are happy and content.

6

Tasmanian devil *Sarcophilus harrisii*



- Tasmanian devils are the largest carnivorous marsupials in the world.
- Tasmanian devils can only be found on Tasmania, a large island found near Australia.
- Tasmanian devils are known for being feisty. When threatened, they lunge at their predators, howling and baring their teeth. They often spin in circles to intimidate.
- Tasmanian devils spend their days alone in their caves or burrows, feeding throughout the night.
- Tasmanian devils are voracious eaters. They will consume everything from their prey (hair, organs, bones).