



Nature Study

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

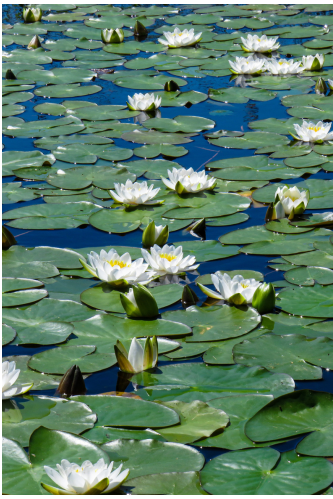
As you progress through our sessions, you may find it handy to keep your past nature cards in a binder for easy reference when your children come across a familiar object. These seeds you are planting will grow into a wonderful garden of knowledge for your children in years to come.

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



Water Lily

Nymphaeaceae

1

- The water lily is considered to evoke imagery of the sunset, the seashore, and the shark in Sangam literature and Tamil poetics.
- It is considered symbolic of the grief of separation.

- Water lilies are considered an aquatic herb with over 70 species.
- Several fossils of water lilies, or related species, have been found in Brazil, Canada, and Antarctica.
- The water lily is the national flower of Bangladesh, Iran, and Sri Lanka.
- The birth flower for the month of July is the water lily.



Frog

Anura

1

- Over 7,500 species of amphibian are classified in the order Anura.
- The Anura include all modern frogs and any fossil species that fit within the anuran definition.

- Tadpoles of frogs are mostly herbivorous, while tadpoles of salamanders and caecilians are carnivorous.
- Many frogs have webbed feet, and the degree of webbing is directly proportional to the amount of time the species spends in the water.
- Many frogs are able to absorb water and oxygen directly through the skin, especially around the pelvic area, but the permeability of a frog's skin can also result in water loss.



Wisteria

Fabaceae

2

- Wisteria is one of the five most commonly used motifs in family crests, and there are more than 150 types of wisteria family crests.
- Wisteria is at its best when allowed to clamber up a tree, pergola, wall, or other supporting structure.

- Wisteria, especially Chinese wisteria, is very hardy and fast-growing, able to grow in fairly poor-quality soils, but prefers fertile, moist, well-drained soil and thrives in full sun.
- Specimens grown from seed can take decades to bloom; for this reason, some grow plants that have been started from rooted cuttings or grafted cultivated plants.
- There are 4 different species of wisteria, 2 species in Japan, 1 in the United States, and 1 in China.
- The seeds of all wisteria species contain high levels of the wisterin toxin and are especially poisonous.



Weeping Willow

Salix babylonica

2

- Weeping Willow trees grow rapidly to 66–82 ft tall and live a short life span between 40 and 75 years.
- The flowers bloom early in the spring; and are catkins, which is a slim, cylindrical flower cluster.

- The weeping willow originated in China and was traded along the Silk Road to Southwest Asia and Europe.
- There is an active ingredient in fresh willow bark called salicin. When salicin decomposes in the human system it becomes salicylic acid, a compound very closely related to the synthetic pain reliever we know as aspirin.



Bamboo wood 3

Homarus gammarus

- Bamboo is a strong and lightweight material that has been used for building houses, bridges, boats, kitchen utensils, etc. It's also used decoratively due to its availability.
- Bamboo likes warm, tropical, moist climates, but is also

found in some cool mountainous regions and highland cloud forests.

- Near freezing temperatures will cause many tropical bamboo species to die, while some of the hardier bamboo survives temperatures as low as -20°F .
- Bamboos have the ability to flower but do so seldomly and unpredictably. After flowering, a plant declines and often dies entirely. In fact, many species only flower at intervals as long as 65 or 120 years.



Heron 3

Ardea Linnaeus

- Herons resemble birds in other families, such as storks, ibises, spoonbills, and cranes.
- In flight, the neck is retracted and the legs and feet are held backward.

- The feathers of the herons are soft and usually blue, black, brown, grey, or white. Some species are often strikingly complex.
- Herons, and the different varied species related to them, are mostly associated with wetlands and water. They feed on a variety of live aquatic prey including fish, reptiles, mollusks, crustaceans, amphibians, and aquatic insects.
- Herons are also known as shitepokes, or shypokes. Webster's Dictionary suggests that herons were given this name because of their habit of defecating when flushed.



Common Carp 4

Cyprinus carpio

- Common carp can grow to very large sizes if given adequate space and nutrients.
- The largest recorded carp ever caught weighed 100.5 lb. The average size of the common carp is around 16-31 inches and 4.4-30.9 lb.

- A typical adult female can lay 300,000 eggs in a single spawn. Carp typically spawn in the spring due to rainfall and rising water temperatures. However, carp can spawn multiple times in a season.
- Koi fish are an ornamental variety of domesticated carp typically kept in garden ponds. Although the parent species of the koi has been considered the common carp, recent authorities believe it originates from an East Asian carp.



Common Rudd 4

Scardinius erythrophthalmus

- Rudd prefer shallow weedy areas in lakes and river backwaters.
- Mature females lay up to 200,000 eggs on submerged vegetation.
- Mature rudd, which are about 18" in length and weigh about 3 pounds, eat mostly aquatic vegetation.
- The maximum lifespan reported is 17 years.
- An upturned mouth allows the rudd to feed easily at the top of the water.