



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

Grey Pug
Eupithecia subfuscata

- It is found throughout the Palearctic region and the Near East. It is also found in North America.
- The species flies at night and is attracted to light.
- The forewings of this species are grey (occasionally with an ochreous tinge) and marked with pale fascia and radial lines which give it a mottled appearance.
- Melanism is common in this species - there is too much pigment and the moth appears all black.
- The adults fly in May and June, with a second brood sometimes emerging in August.
- The species overwinters as a pupa.



1

Valerian
Valeriana officinalis

- It is consumed as food by the larvae of some butterfly and moth species, including the grey pug.
- Crude extract of valerian root may have sedative and anxiolytic effects, and is commonly sold in supplements to promote sleep.
- In the summer, the mature plant may have a height of 5 ft.
- Valerian bears sweetly scented pink or white flowers.
- The herb's name comes from the Latin verb valere (to be strong, healthy) and the personal name Valeria.
- Valerian root is a cat attractant, similar to catnip.



2

Breckland Thyme
Thymus serpyllum

- Breckland Thyme is a species of flowering plant in the mint family Lamiaceae.
- Breckland Thyme produces scents ranging from heavily herbal to lightly lemon, depending on the variety.
- It is a plant of thin soils and can be found growing on sandy-soiled heaths, rocky outcrops, hills, banks, roadsides, and riverside sand banks.
- The usually pink or mauve flowers have a tube-like calyx and an irregular straight-tubed, hairy corolla.
- Breckland Thyme grows to 1-in tall with creeping stems up to 4 in long.



2

Gray Wolf
Canis lupus

- It is distinguished from other Canis species by its larger size and less pointed features, particularly on the ears and muzzle.
- It is the only species of Canis to have a range encompassing both Eurasia and North America.
- The gray wolf is one of the world's best-known and most researched animals.
- Although the fear of wolves is pervasive in many human societies, the majority of recorded attacks on people have been attributed to animals suffering from rabies.
- The Latin "lupus" is a Sabine loanword.
- It is the largest extant member of its family.



3

Fin Whale
Balaenoptera physalus

- It is the second-largest species on Earth after the blue whale.
- American naturalist Roy Chapman Andrews called the fin whale "the greyhound of the sea ... for its beautiful, slender body is built like a racing yacht and the animal can surpass the speed of the fastest ocean steamship."
- Fin whales are rorquals, members of the family Balaenopteridae, which also includes the humpback whale, the blue whale, Bryde's whale, the sei whale, and the minke whale.
- The fin whale is usually distinguished by its tall spout, long back, prominent dorsal fin, and asymmetrical coloration.



3

Cowslip
Primula veris

- The species is native throughout most of temperate Europe and western Asia, and although absent from more northerly areas including much of northwest Scotland, it reappears in northernmost Sutherland and Orkney and in Scandinavia.
- The species name veris (of spring) is the genitive case form of the Latin "ver" (spring).
- In the Middle Ages, it was also known as St. Peter's herb or Petrella and was sought after by Florentine apothecaries.
- The cowslip is frequently found on more open ground than the primrose.



4

Greater Knapweed
Centaurea scabiosa

- Greater knapweed is found growing in dry grasslands, hedgerows, and cliffs on lime-rich soil.
- The plant is sometimes confused with devils-bit scabious, however, the leaves on this plant are arranged alternately, whereas in devils-bit they are opposite.
- The plant's upright-branched stems end in singular thistle-like flowerheads.
- This species is very valuable to bees.
- This is the only known food plant for caterpillars of the Coleophoridae case-bearer moth 'Coleophora didymella.'



4

European Hedgehog
Erinaceus europaeus

- A generally common and widely distributed species that can survive across a wide range of habitat types.
- Leucistic or 'blonde' hedgehogs occasionally occur - they are believed to have a pair of rare recessive genes, giving rise to their black eyes and creamy-colored spines.
- This species is largely nocturnal.
- The European hedgehog is omnivorous.
- A favorite in European gardens, both for its endearing appearance and its preference for eating a range of garden pests