



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

Quillwort *Isoetes*

- Quillwort have 192 different species.
- Quillwort are aquatic or semi-aquatic. Most can be found in water.
- Its leaves have air chambers that take up carbon dioxide.
- Stomata are absent.
- Quillworts are spore-producing plants and highly rely on water dispersion.
- Several species of *Isoetes* are commonly called Merlin's Grass.



1

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

- Tufted ducks are common diving ducks.
- Tufted duck are mainly found in Eurasia.
- Adult males are black with white flanks and have an obvious head tuft that gives the species its name. Adult females are brown.
- They eat mollusks or aquatic insects.
- In summer, these ducks live in shallow lakes. In winter, they live in deeper lakes.



2

Globeflower *Trollius*

- In the family Ranunculaceae
- Globeflowers can often be found growing around bogs and swamps.
- They are fibrous rooted perennials.
- Globeflowers are used as food plants by the larvae of some Lepidoptera species.
- They can grow between on and two feet tall.
- All species of *Trollius* are poisonous to cattle and other livestock when fresh.



2

Freshwater Crayfish *Cambarus*

- Crayfish are crustaceans and are similar to small lobsters.
- They live in clear water and cannot live in polluted waters.
- Crayfish can be a variety of colors, including pink, yellow, red, and blue.
- They can also be called crawfish, mudbugs, or crawdads.
- There are three families of crayfish, two in the Northern Hemisphere and one in the Southern Hemisphere.



3

Roseroot *Rhodiola rosea*



- In the family Crassulaceae.
- Roseroot are perennials.
- It is often used as an herbal supplement, including for the treatment of anxiety and depression.
- Roseroot leaves can be eaten raw. They can be added to salads.
- They can also be called “arctic root,” but arctic root is an official, trademarked name.

3

Butterflies *Rhopalocera*



- Butterflies are insects. They have six legs, three main body parts, and 4 wings.
- 41 different species have been recorded in The Lake District.
- Butterflies start as caterpillars. Caterpillars are herbivores; they eat plants.
- The limestone woodlands and grasslands bordering Morecambe Bay are the UK stronghold of the rare High Brown Fritillary and are also home to Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Northern Brown Argus, Silver-washed Fritillary, and Duke of Burgundy butterflies.

4

Water Avens *Guem rivale*



- Water Avens can be one to two feet tall.
- As the flower matures, elongation of the stamens ensures it self-fertilizes if not already cross-pollinated.
- Water Avens flower in May and June.
- They can often be found in damp habitats.
- Their unique cup-shaped flowers make them easy to spot.
- The seeds of Water Avens are burr-like and are distributed after being caught in the coats of rabbits and other small mammals and by rhizome growth.

4

Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*



- Red squirrels can be found in northern Europe. They usually live in the forest.
- In Great Britain, Ireland, and Italy, numbers have decreased drastically in recent years. This decline is associated with the introduction by humans of the eastern grey squirrel from North America.
- They can have red-orange coats or darker coats.
- Red squirrels can live around 7 years.
- Squirrels are omnivores and eat fruit, nuts, seeds, and other small items.

5

Alpine Catchfly *Silene suecica*



- Alpine catchfly can be 10 to 14 inches tall.
- They are a perennial herb.
- Because of its ability to grow in soils with heavy amounts of copper, *Silene suecica* is used as a copper content indicator in geobotanical prospecting.
- Its name, "catchfly," comes from other related catchfly plants that have sticky stems.
- They flower in late spring or early summer.

5

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*



- The male peregrine falcon is called a tiercel because it is one third of the size of a female falcon.
- The peregrine falcon's wingspan can be 2.4 to 4 feet.
- The peregrine's breeding range includes land regions from the Arctic tundra to the tropics.
- Their name means "wanderer."
- An adult can travel up to 240 miles per hour.

6

Purple Saxifrage *Saxifraga oppositifolia*



- Purple saxifrage can grow up to two inches tall.
- It can only grow in calciferous soils.
- Calciferous soils contain or produce calcium salts.
- Purple saxifrage are not endangered but may face threats in the future.
- Swiss botanist Christian Körner found the plant growing at an elevation of 14,780 ft in the Swiss Alps, making it the highest-elevation angiosperm in Europe.
- This plant is consumed by caterpillars like the Arctic woolly-bear caterpillar.

6

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*



- Red deer live in Europe, the Caucasus Mountains region, Asia Minor, Iran, parts of western Asia, and central Asia.
- Red deer are one of the largest deer species. Male deer (stags) can weigh over 500 pounds.
- Red deer can live 20 years in captivity or around 10 years in the wild.
- Only stags have antlers.
- Red deer have a 4-chambered stomach.
- The red deer are the largest non-domesticated land mammals still existing in Ireland.