



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

Poppy Flowers *Opium poppy*



- Poppies bloom in spring and early summer.
- Ancient Egyptian doctors used poppies for pain relief.
- Moina Michael is credited with first using the poppy for war remembrance.
- Poppy is a flowering plant of the family Papaveraceae, native to Turkey.
- The milky latex sap of opium poppies contains isoquinoline alkaloids.

1

Winnie *Ursus americanus*



- Winnie became the mascot for the Canadian Army Veterinary Corps.
- Winnie was a black bear found by Lt. Henry Colebourn, a veterinarian in the army.
- Colebourn bought Winnie for \$20 at a train station. He named her Winnie for the Canadian city "Winnipeg."
- Before being shipped out to France, Colebourn left Winnie at the London Zoo.
- Winnie was the inspiration for A.A. Milne's series "Winnie the Pooh."

2

Deadly Nightshade *Atropa belladonna*



- Deadly nightshade was used in chemical warfare during WWI.
- People had been using belladonna for war since the 1600s.
- It is a highly dangerous and toxic plant.
- It can grow up to five feet.
- It belongs to the plant family Solanaceae.
- Atropos was the name of one of the Three Fates in Greek mythology, the one who cuts the thread of life after her sisters have spun and measured it. Carl Linnaeus chose the name *Atropa* after her.

2

Carrier Pigeons *Columba livia*



- Pigeons were used in both world wars for their speed and homing ability.
- Carrier pigeons were used for delivering messages.
- One of the most famous pigeons was named Cher Ami. Her last message was in October 1918. She had been shot, but still delivered the message bravely.
- That message saved nearly 200 lives.
- 32 pigeons received the Dickin Medal, an award offered to brave animals during WWII.

3

Humble Moss *Sphagnum*



- Humble moss was used to stuff wounds during WWI.
- A botanist and surgeon helped to come up with the idea since the moss has antiseptic properties.
- Humans have used it for hundreds of years to heal injuries.
- Collecting the moss is labor intensive, but scientists have tested it for modern use.
- Today the plant is known for its use in horticulture and biofuel.

3

Horses *Equus caballus*



- Armies used horses for transporting supplies in battle during WWI.
- In some battles, more horses died than humans.
- People believed that well-bred horses would fare worse in wartime than lesser breeds.
- WWI was the last time horses were used on such a massive scale in wartime.
- Horses belong to the taxonomic family Equidae.
- The first archaeological evidence of horses used in warfare dates to between 4000 and 3000 BC. (The first settlement of Jerusalem is believed to have been around 3500 BC.)

4

Northern French Farmland



- In Northern France, some farmland is still contaminated from WWI shells, which were used over 100 years ago.
- Some areas of farmland are still unapproved to grow produce.
- During the war, France was among several countries that had to get rid of leftover weapons. The metal was left in the soil.
- Now, in the contaminated areas, the food that is grown has small amounts of lead in it.

4

Camels *Camelus*



- In the Middle East, the British formed the Imperial Camel Corps Brigade.
- The Brigade ultimately had four battalions.
- The lighter Egyptian camel became the mount chosen for carrying troops
- The Brigade had 4,150 men and 4,800 camels.
- The brigade suffered 246 men killed.
- The soldiers were from Britain, New Zealand, Australia, and India.
- After the war, the ICCB disbanded.

5

Limestone



- These sedimentary rocks were used to build limestone quarries.
- Near the Chemin des Dames on the Western Front, limestone quarries sheltered soldiers while war was all around them.
- Some soldiers crafted artwork on the cave's walls. The Passamaquoddy Indian Tribe from Maine was one group who left their stories etched into the cave walls.
- Some quarries were used for underground hospitals.

5

Sergeant Stubby



- Stubby was the most decorated dog during WWI.
- He was the mascot of the 102nd Infantry Regiment.
- The men in the regiment taught Stubby how to "salute" with his paw when an officer walked by.
- Stubby was able to hear bullets before the men could.
- He was present in 17 battles and served for 18 months.

6

Lochnagar Mine



- The British planted the Lochnagar mine in France during WWI.
- A large mine was placed on the German front lines. After it exploded, the Lochnagar crater was created.
- The explosion happened in July 1916.
- Today, it serves as a memorial and is visited by over 200,000 people a year.

6

Dogs *Canis lupus familiaris*



- Aside from Stubby, dogs were used by nearly every country during WWI.
- The Germans used about 30,000 dogs in battle.
- The most common dogs in battle were Doberman Pinschers and German shepherds.
- Messages were put in tins around the necks of dogs, and they were identified by a scarlet collar or tally.
- Dogs could sense the enemy faster than humans could.
- The Red Cross also commonly used them to find wounded soldiers.