



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

Tornado

- A tornado, also called a twister, is a tube of air that touches a cloud and land at the same time.
- The US receives more tornadoes than any other country.
- Strong tornados can tear off a roof from a house or move cars or trees.
- Tornadoes are measured on the Fujita Scale. Tornadoes are labeled from F0 to F5. F5 is the most extreme tornado.
- The deadliest recorded tornado was in 1989 in Bangladesh.



1

Hurricane

- Hurricanes are also called typhoons or cyclones.
- Hurricanes happen over warm water with heavy rain and strong winds.
- The middle of the hurricane is called the eye.
- The average hurricane is about 300 miles wide.
- The deadliest hurricane in US history was in Galveston, TX in 1900.



2

Blizzard

- When you have a high-pressure system that reaches a low-pressure system, you have a blizzard!
- Blizzards in the US are most common in the north eastern states.
- Blizzards have winds that are usually over 30mph for several hours.
- Rochester, NY is the snowiest city in the US. It can see 60" or more of snow each season.



2

Flood

- Flooding is an overflow of water on normally dry ground.
- During floods, the best way to stay safe is to get to higher ground.
- Flooding happens when a body of water, like a lake, overflows.
- Floods can be caused by a dam breaking, heavy rain, or even snow melting.
- Flash floods are quick floods that happen after heavy rain or melted snow.



5

Tsunami



- Tsunamis are large waves that can be caused by underwater earthquakes.
- About two tsunamis happen each year.
- Tsunamis rise straight and can quickly flood entire cities without notice.
- Tsunamis are known to travel at up to 500 miles per hour in the ocean.
- Tsunamis are most common in the Pacific Ocean but can happen in any large body of water.
- "Tsunami" means "harbor wave" in Japanese. Photo: Tsunami aftermath in Indonesia, AusAID

5

Hail Storm



- Hail is solid precipitation.
- Drops of water form together in thunderclouds to create hail.
- When it falls, hail can damage property, windows, and even houses.
- Hail isn't frozen rain. Frozen rain falls as rain but freezes as it gets close to the ground.
- One of the worst hail storms was in Bangladesh, which killed 92 people. The hail stones weighed up to two pounds.

6

Monsoon



- A monsoon is a seasonal shift in winds.
- During winter and summer, monsoon winds change direction.
- They are caused by a difference in temperature between land and the ocean.
- Farmers in regions like India count on monsoon winds to help their crops.
- Heavy monsoon rains can unfortunately damage and drown crops.

6

Wildfire



- Humans are normally the cause of wildfires, but some can be caused from droughts.
- Fires need three things to thrive: fuel source (dry wood or plants), oxygen, and heat.
- Wildfires quickly destroy homes, woods, and can be deadly if people or animals inhale smoke.
- Firefighters can fight widespread wildfires with helicopters that drop water on the fire.

3

Drought

- Droughts are prolonged periods of no rain. They can be weeks, months, or even years long.
- The risk of wildfires is higher with droughts because of the dry land.
- There are four different types of droughts: meteorological drought, hydrological drought, agricultural drought, and socioeconomic drought.
- Droughts can have a major negative economic impact and make crops more expensive.



3

Dust Storm

- Dust storms are made up of dust and sand.
- Dust storms are most likely after very strong winds, like the winds of a thunderstorm.
- Dust storms aren't always long; some are only a few minutes long. Still, these can have deadly outcomes if pilots or car drivers cannot see in front of them.



4

Derecho

- A derecho is a long, straight-lined windstorm.
- 70% of derechos happen during the warm season.
- Despite lasting for several hours, derechos are difficult to predict. Sometimes, they're not known to forecasters until they occur.
- Derecho means "straight" in Spanish.
- Derechos aren't as common as thunderstorms, but can have deadly consequences.



4

Thundersnow

- Thundersnows happen when lightning and thunder hits during a snowstorm.
- Thundersnow only happen about 6 times a year - they're very rare.
- Snowfall can muffle the sound of thunder, which can make them difficult to detect.
- Lightning becomes especially dangerous with snow.

