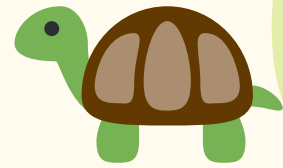


10



**Activities
to Connect You
to Wildlife**



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💎 *Fancy Scientist* 💎

1. Start a Bird Life List

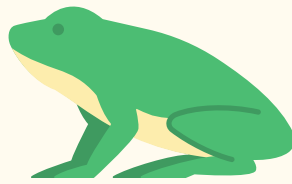


- Search and listen for birds in your backyard, a local patch of woods, or a park
- How many species can you find? Keep a list for your life
- Use eBird and Merlin Bird ID for help to help with IDs and bird songs
- Binoculars help a lot!
- Listen to [Bird Basics](#) for advice

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2. Go for an iNaturalist Hike

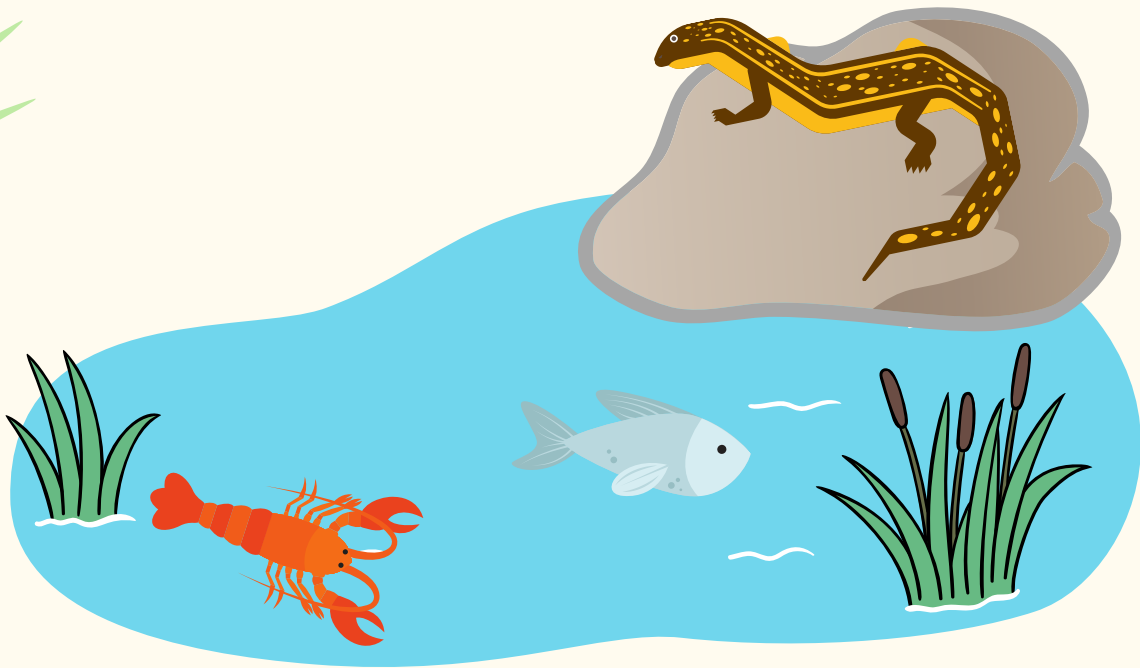


- Go for a hike, but use the iNaturalist and Seek apps to identify plants, fungi, and animals that you see
- See how many species you can upload
- Every hike, see if you can find new species

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3. Go for a Splash Hike



- Find a creek with lots of rocks
- Grab a pair of old shoes and hike in the creek
- Flip over rocks on land and underwater to look for animals.
- Bring a container to catch (and release) them.

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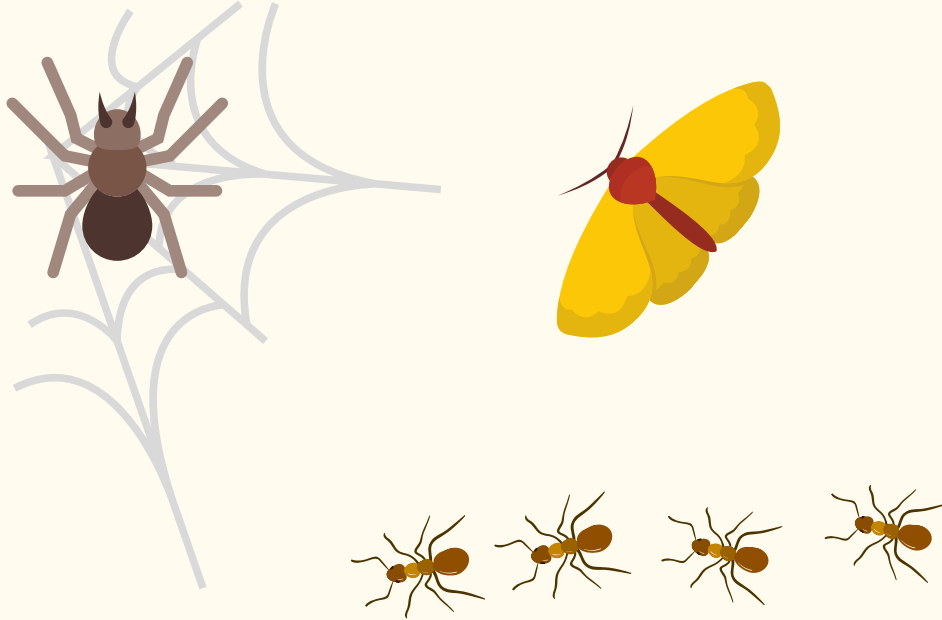
4. Do a Backyard Bioblitz



- A bioblitz is a survey of living species within an area for a specific amount of time
- Choose a time period (an hour, a day, a weekend) and use iNaturalist and Seek to see how many species you can find

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5. Do an Indoor Bioblitz



- Rainy day? Do a bioblitz inside!
- Check your garage and basement for spiders and insects
- Put them in jars to see them up close. Release them after.
- Read Discover the Wildlife in Your Home and add observations to the iNaturalist project **Never Home Alone**

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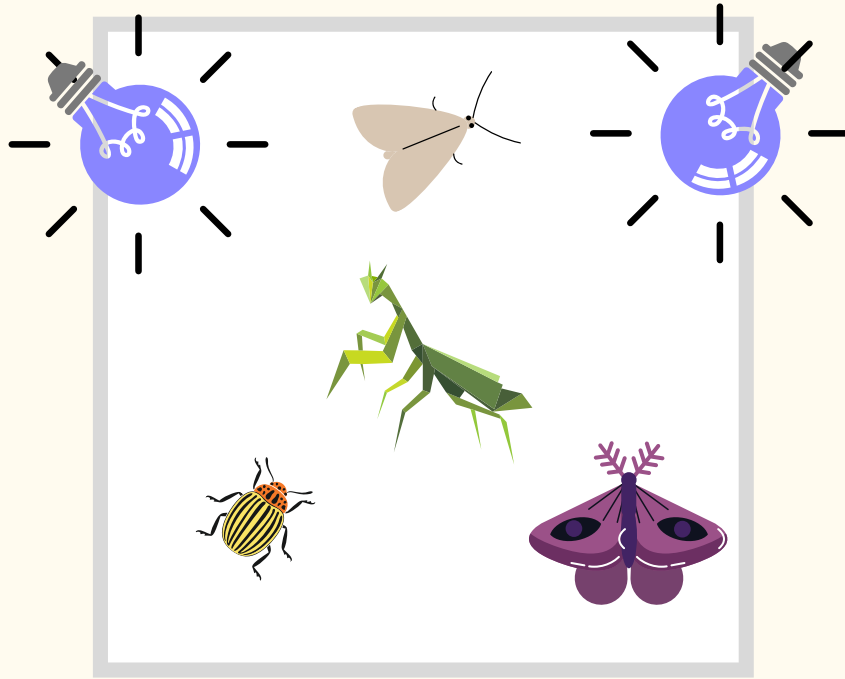
6. Explore Nature at Night



- Grab a headlamp and flashlight and explore your backyard, neighborhood, or a safe trail
- See what animals come out at night
- Never go alone

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7. Make a Black Light Sheet



- Hang up a plain white sheet
- Attach a black light on the top or sides
- Insects will be attracted to the sheet
- Check out the insects that you attract!

8. Set Up a Camera Trap



- Purchase a camera trap
- Set it up in your backyard
- Let it sit for 3 weeks
- Take the memory card out and look at the animals you photographed
- See photos of kids' mammal discoveries around the world

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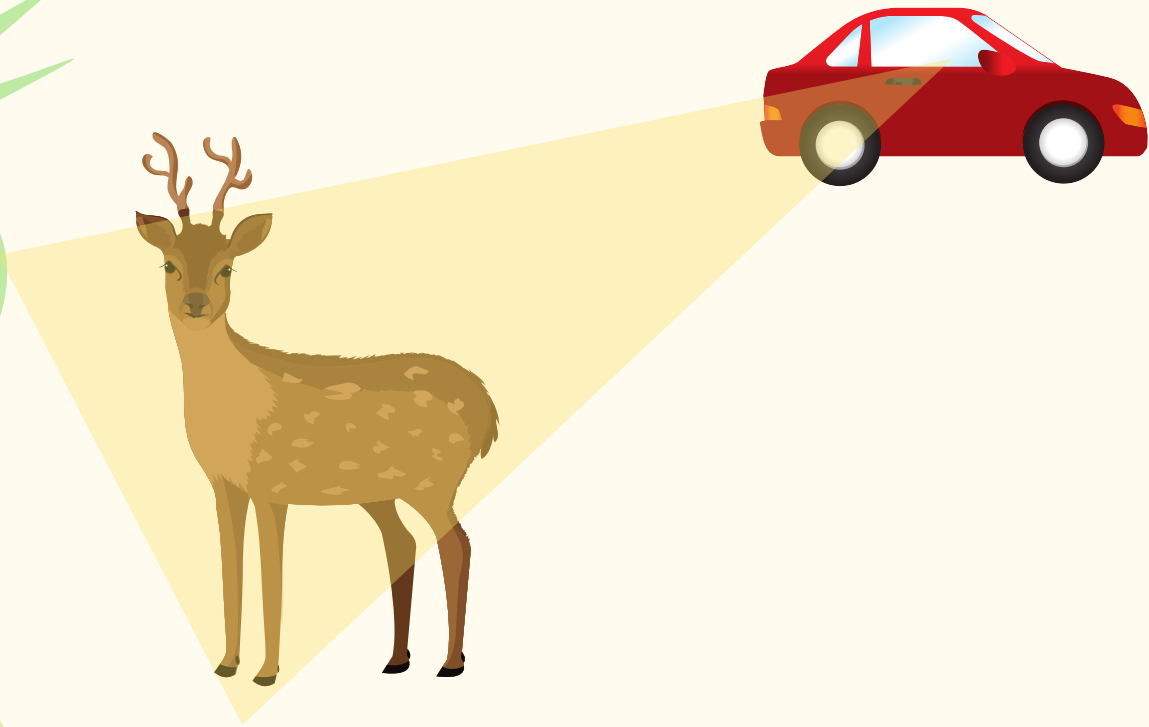
9. Explore at Ponds



- Visit a local pond
- Bring nets to catch frogs and other animals up close (always let them go)
- Consider doing the HerpMapper or FrogWatch citizen science project

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10. Spotlight Animals



- Get a large, spotlight-style flashlight
- Go driving to a natural area (like through a state park) and look for wildlife at night

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Equipment

1. Bird Life List

- Binoculars
- Field guide

3. Splash Hike

- Old sneakers
- Container or jar

5. Indoor Bioblitz

- Insect jar
- Magnifying glass

7. Black Light Sheet

- Old white sheet
- Black light
- Insect jar

2. iNaturalist Hike

- Binoculars
- Hiking boots
- Water bottle

4. Backyard Bioblitz

- Binoculars
- Insect jar
- Magnifying glass

6. Nature at Night

- Flashlight
- Headlamp
- Insect jar

8. Camera Trap

- Camera trap
- 2 SD cards
- Batteries
- Bicycle lock

9. Explore at Ponds

- Net
- Container or jar
- Muck boots or waders

10. Spotlight Animals

- Spotlight
- Mammal field guide

You can purchase my recommended products at the Fancy Scientist Amazon Store

Citizen Science Programs and Apps

- eBird
- Merlin Bird ID
- iNaturalist
- Seek
- HerpMapper
- FrogWatch

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