VIRTUAL SUMMER CAMP

WEEK TWO: EXPLORE

Finding Nature in Surprising Places

For Grades K—2

Take an exploratory walk with a parent/caregiver and write down the places where you found grass growing; a weed or a flower thriving in cement; moss or vines covering an area, etc. You can collect or take a picture of living items (like plants and flowers) and take pictures of nonliving items (like the sun, water, rocks, pollution) to create a nature collage.

What Will You Learn?

- Learn more about the natural world.
- Be able to identify living and nonliving things in nature.
- Learn about the relationship between living and nonliving things.
- Observe and experience the sights, scents, sounds, and textures of the outdoors.

Materials:

- Construction paper
- Pencils, crayons, or markers
- Phone or camera (optional)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape

Instructions:

- Go on a nature walk with your favorite grownup.
- Collect items from nature. Collect images of living items (like animals) or natural forces (like the sun or pollution) by drawing them, photographing them, or describing them in words. Collect nonliving things (like twigs or leaves) or living plants by taking them home. Make sure to ask your grownup for permission first!
- Draw an outline of how you want your Nature Collage to look (animal shape, car, boat, etc.).
- Use glue or tape to attach the items to your Nature Collage.
- Place your work of art in a safe place to allow the glue to dry.
Reflection Questions:

- What is the difference between living and nonliving things?
- What do living things require in order to survive in their environment?
- How do non living things and events (droughts, floods, pollution) change a habitat?
- How do humans impact the natural world?

Glossary:

Living: a plant, animal, or other organism that can move, reproduce, grow, and respond to its environment. Living things also need air, food, and water to survive.

Nonliving: something that cannot move, reproduce, or grow and is inanimate.

Environment: the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal or plant lives.

Habitat: the region where a plant or animal naturally grows or lives.

Interdependence: depending on each other.

Drought: a long period of dry weather; lack of rain.

Explanation:

Everything in the natural world is connected. Both living and nonliving things work together to change and shape the natural world. By observing nature you can learn about this connection between living and nonliving things.

More to Explore at the Library:

You can also discover many books on these topics, such as Over and Under the Pond by Kate Messner; Finding Wild by Megan Wagner Lloyd, illustrated by Abigail Halpin; and Where’s Rodney? by Carmen Bogan, illustrated by Floyd Cooper.