

# SCIENCE JOURNAL IDEAS

To be used with Claire Walker's Keeping a Nature Journal and Anna Comstock's Handbook of Nature Studies

\*for all times that we do not meet, you may either continue the previous week's study or create a new study.

Deciduous Tree Study 1 of 4 (hint: find a tree near your home)

Observe, sketch, leaf rubbing, bark rubbing, research, notes, for class on 3 interesting facts about your tree (about tree, about plants/insects that live off/by tree, about other)

3 minute presentation in class (Sept 12) practice eye contact (hint- memorize speech with KWO) Bring in a leaf.

Pond Water Study (Hint McAlpine Trail Johnson Rd just past Earth Fare and Lake Hagler @ Anne Springs Greenway both have water, plant life, mud)

Collect 1 gallon or more plus bottom mud and plants to keep in a glass container in the sun for observation

Observe, sketch of various plants, snails, mud critters, research 3 facts

Bring sample to look at under microscope in class

Pond Water Study

Observe, sketch changes in plants, mud life, research 3 facts

3 minute presentation in class (Oct 3) practice voice inflection (practice in front of a mirror using KWO)

Pond Water Study altered to Plant Study

Remove as much water possible and leave all else. Add 2-4 cups of soil gathered from under leaves deep in the woods

Put a lid on your container to keep moisture. Never allow it to dry out.

Observe, sketch, create a hypothesis as to what might happen and why

3 minute presentation (Oct 10) on one of the plants or creatures found in your pond water. practice body language (hint: practice in front of parent and ask for feedback)

Edible Plant- this may take research in order to find

locate, observe its surroundings (does it always grow near/with another plant, etc), sketch, research, find a recipe to put it to use (food, salve, compress), create, & bring to class.

3 minute presentation with speech memorized (hint: small notecard with key words will be accepted)

Insect Study –cricket, part 1

Locate, observe, sketch, research, build a habitat for him/her, observe and make noted and additional sketches over the next week(s) bring to class in habitat for presentation

Insect Study- cricket, part 2

Personal observations, sounds, habits, favorite foods

No presentation

Deciduous Tree Study 2 of 4 (using same tree from Sept 5)

Observe, sketch, leaf rubbing, bark rubbing, research, notes, for class on 3 interesting changes noted about your tree and why they occur (for what purpose)

3 minute presentation in class (Nov 14) Bring in a leaf.

Arachnid Study (it's cold...where might one be found?)

Observe daily, sketch daily, research, 3 minute presentation

Winter Berry Study

Locate, observe surroundings, sketch with surroundings and as unit and as single, cross cut to sketch inside, research, 3 minute presentation

Fruit Study (citrus or apple)

Observe, sketch, cross cut sketch, seed sketch research, place seeds in freezer

Deciduous Tree Study 3 of 4 (using same tree)

3 interesting changes noted about your tree and why they occur (for what purpose)

3 minute presentation in class (Jan 16) Bring in a leaf.

Seed Study

'Start' the seed in warm sunny location inside layers of paper towels that are kept damp until the seed germinates (define germinate), at which point, research how to plant and plant.

Observe and sketch daily as it germinates. 3 minute presentation on growing from a seed and maintaining (farming) to the point of being fruit bearing. Will seeds from a store bought fruit grow into trees that also bear fruit?

Fish Study, part 1

Research how and create an eco-system with a Beta Fish and water plant such as the Peace Lily or Bamboo.

If mom or dad say no, go with their alternate plan.

Build/create, observe, sketch

No presentation

Fish Study, part 2

Research- why does this combination work without needing to feed fish or aerate water?

Sketch any changes

Observe daily for a 3 minute presentation

Animal Study (whatever you can find, but squirrels should be an easy find, so don't stress)

Observe one daily, sketch, research, add details, note chatter meanings and body language

3 minute presentation on understanding your animal sounds and movements

Flower or Bud Study

Observe, sketch, cross cut sketch, research usefulness, origin, etc for 3 minute presentation

Butterfly Study (in our house all year)

This will be occurring in our home all year, so you will observe, sketch on days you are in class

3 minute presentation of coolest part and what was going on behind the scenes of what your eyes saw

Deciduous Tree Study 4 of 4 (using same tree from Sept 5)

3 interesting changes noted about your tree and why they occur (for what purpose)