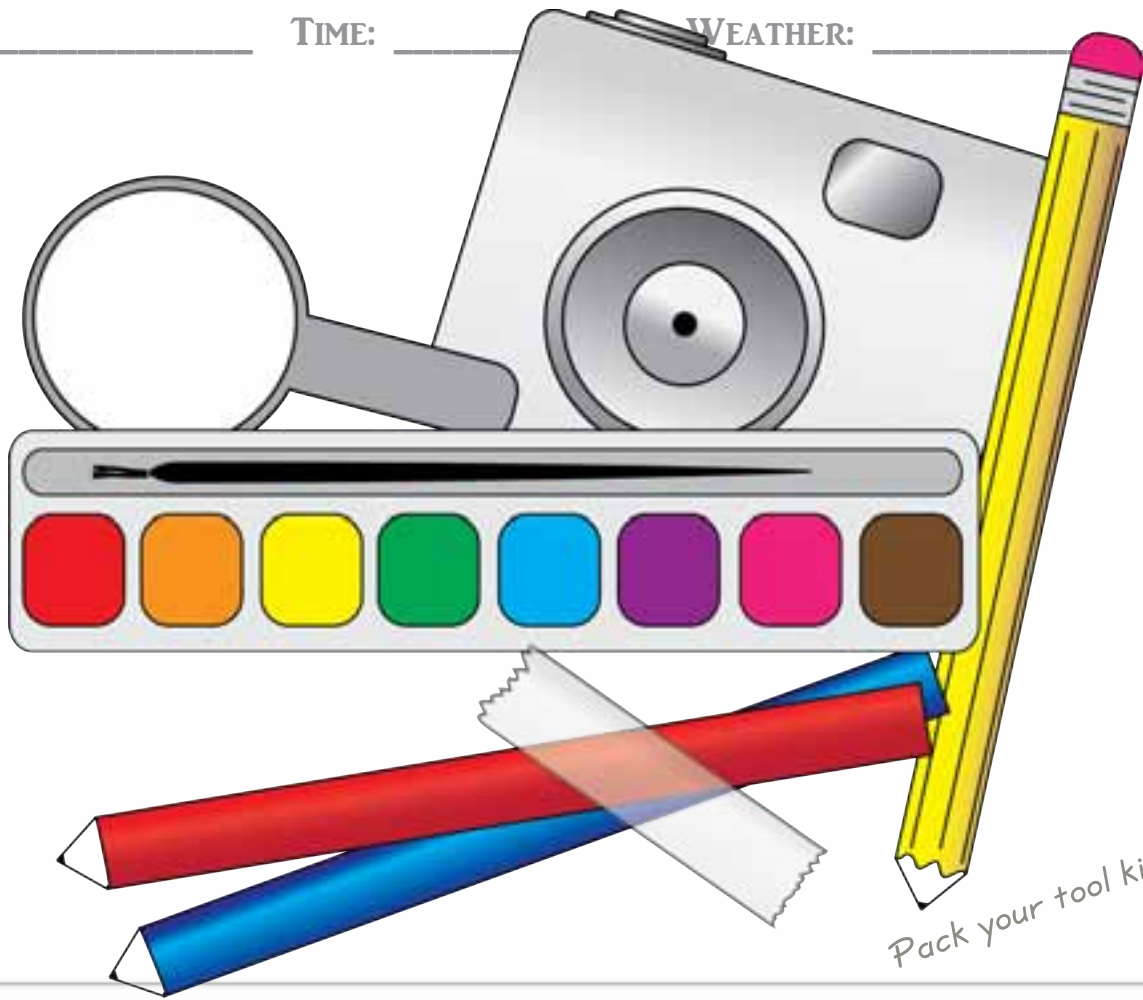




FIELD JOURNAL





A field journal is an important tool for observing nature. It's a place to collect your observations, thoughts, and questions as you explore the world around you.

Field journals can include sketches, photos, descriptions, notes, sound maps, questions, artifacts, and anything else that helps you think about your experience in nature.

Your field journal will be unique because it will reflect your personal style. It will have your questions, ideas, experiences, writings, and drawings in it. Have fun!



Be sure to include this kind of information when you're observing something interesting!

Asking questions is the most important part of keeping a field journal!



What questions will you ask?

- What do I notice (see, smell, hear, feel)?
- What surprises me?
- What is the setting?

What other questions can you ask?

-
-
-
-
-
-





Photo by Matt H. Wade at Wikipedia. CC-BY-SA-3.0

- Petals are oblong, white
- 11 petals
- Yellow Pistil & Stamen
- Stem smooth and thin
- Leaves are big and lobed, like lettuce!

Hints for Drawing Wildflowers

1. Look at one petal. Observe the general shape of the petal. What colors are the petal? Draw one petal.
2. Count the petals. Draw the rest of petals on your flower.
3. Observe the center of the flower. How do the petals connect to the rest of the plant? What parts are visible?
4. What is the stem like? Smooth? Ribbed? "Hairy"?
5. What are the leaves like? Are they pointy, lobed, smooth, or toothed? What size are they compared to the flower?

Find a wildflower you like and sketch it on the next page.



DATE: _____

TIME: _____

WEATHER: _____

Flower Name: _____





Photo by Jeff Paulson



You've drawn a flower!
Now, how will you write about it?
You can't write **EVERYTHING!**
What are the most important
and interesting details?

Decide what's important and interesting.

- location, date, time,
- weather, wind
- soil conditions (moist? dry?)
- note nearby flowers, plants, or trees
- note things on the ground - seeds, acorns, rocks
- observe interactions among insects: feeding, pollinating, fighting, building, caring for young ones
- questions, questions, questions!



8

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

WEATHER: _____



Flower Name: _____



Photo by Jeff Paulson

Buds

Find a stem or tree branch that has a bud on it.

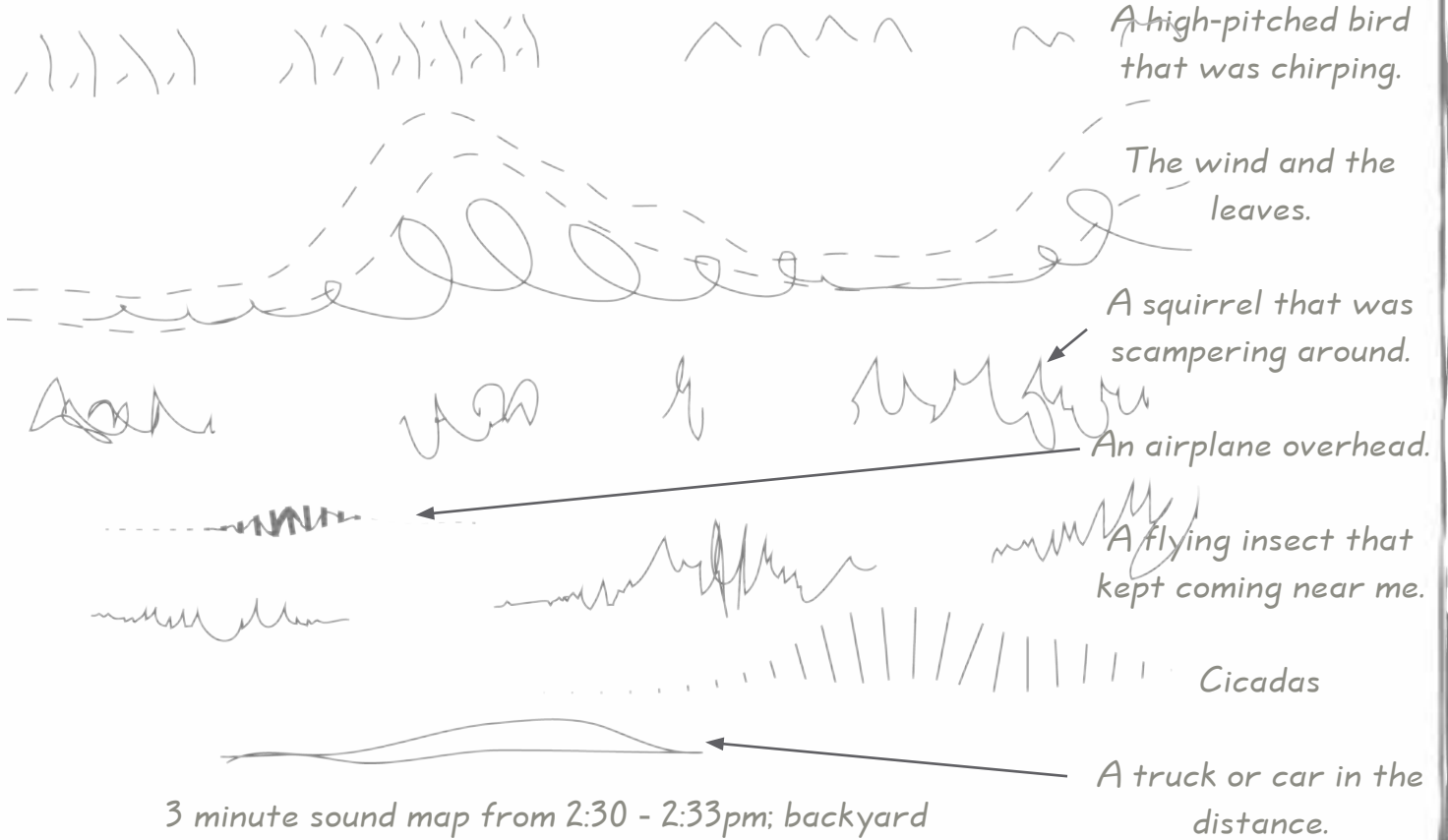
Sketch it, making careful observations of its size, shape, color, and texture.

Check it each day and make little sketches of what you see.

Write the date and time next to each sketch.



DATE: 6.05.08 TIME: 2:30 pm WEATHER: sunny, warm breeze 11



Sound Map

When you're observing nature, it's not just about what you see. Try this: Find a place outside where you can sit for 3 - 5 minutes. Listen carefully to the sounds around you. Make marks on your paper as if you are "drawing" the sounds you hear.

Look at the example above. You don't have to use these kinds of marks; you can make up your own sound designs.

Try making your own sound map on the next page.



12 DATE: _____ TIME: _____ WEATHER: _____





Insects

Observing isn't just for plants and flowers. Check out the insects! Find an insect at work and watch for a while. Sketch the insect and write about your experience. Include:

- a detailed observations of the insect's behavior*
- the location, time, date, weather conditions*
- the duration of the observation*
- the food source being consumed*
- the plant being pollinated*
- questions, questions, questions!*



14 DATE: _____ TIME: _____ WEATHER: _____





Photos by Jeff Paulson

Pollen

How many places can you find pollen?

Can you find pollen on the move?

Pollen Scavenger Hunt:

- Find pollen in a flower.*
- Find pollen on an insect.*
- Find pollen the wind has moved.*



Chlorophyll and Petal Pigment

Paint a picture of a dandelion using chlorophyll and dandelion pigment.

- 1. Take a blade of grass. Split it down the middle. Get it a little bit wet.*
- 2. Smear the grass on the paper to paint a dandelion stem.*
- 3. Pick a dandelion and use the yellow head of the flower to smear, or paint, the head of your dandelion picture. You may have to press down a little.*



