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Wildlife and Heritage Service
dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/



Your Observations

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

What animal did you see? _____

What was the animal doing? _____

Nature Journal



Nature Discovery

Before you begin your adventure looking for nature, put together a nature discovery kit! Below are some items you might want to include.

- Field Guides
- Pen/Pencil
- Camera
- Butterfly Net
- Flashlight
- Magnifying Glass
- Jar w/ holes in lid
- Binoculars
- Ruler
- Dip Net
- Nature Journal
- Sketching Supplies
- Map



Tips for Observing Wildlife

1. **Blend in with your surroundings.** Bright-colored clothes and/or smelly perfumes can alert wildlife.
2. **Keep still and wait.** If you find a good wildlife-watching spot, then sit down and be quiet. Loud noises can often scare wildlife away.
3. **Respect wildlife.** Most wildlife are best viewed at a distance, especially if you see a mother with its young.

Naturalist's Code of Ethics

- 1. I will help to protect animals, plants and their environment.**
I will not disturb animals, their nests, feeding sites or places they need to survive.
- 2. I will ask permission to view wildlife on private property.**
- 3. When I am outdoors with others, I will be a role model.** I will share my knowledge of nature and will ask others to follow this code of ethic.
- 4. I will try to leave the environment cleaner than I found it.** I will carry out my trash, food and tools.
- 5. I will leave rocks, plants and wildlife as I find them for others to enjoy.**

I Pledge to Follow the Naturalist's Code of Ethics



(Signed)

(Date)

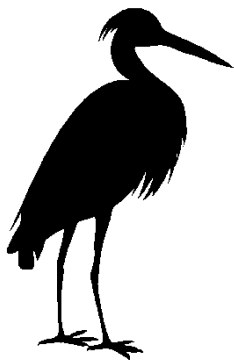


Bird Identification

Identifying birds is easier if you learn some general bird groups, based on their silhouettes. Find a bird outside. Does it have long or short legs? What color is it? What is the shape of its bill? How big is it?



Ducks



Herons & Egrets



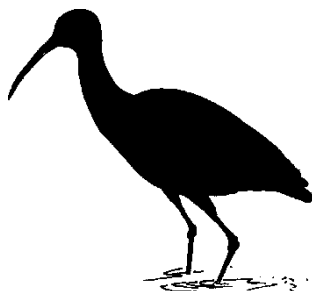
Owls



Songbirds



Raptors



Shorebirds

For more info on Maryland birds, go to:
dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Plants_Wildlife/mdbirds.asp

Put it in Poetry!

Haiku poetry is a short form of poetry developed in Japan centuries ago. The purpose of haikus is to tell a story that stirs emotion. Each poem has only 3 lines (5 syllables, 7 syllables and 5 syllables).

Find a nice quiet spot where you can observe a nature scene. Brainstorm your poem by writing down 6 to 8 sentences of different images that you see. Then, take two of the sentences that you think will create a picture and pare them down into 3 short lines.

**Be still and listen
as warblers sing up the sun.
The day starts anew**

First line= 5 syllables

Second line= 7 syllables

Third line= 5 syllables

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Your Observations

Describe a leaf you have found:

Does it have hair? _____ Does it have a smell? _____

Draw your leaf below or place it behind the paper and make a leaf rubbing.

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

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Looking at Leaves

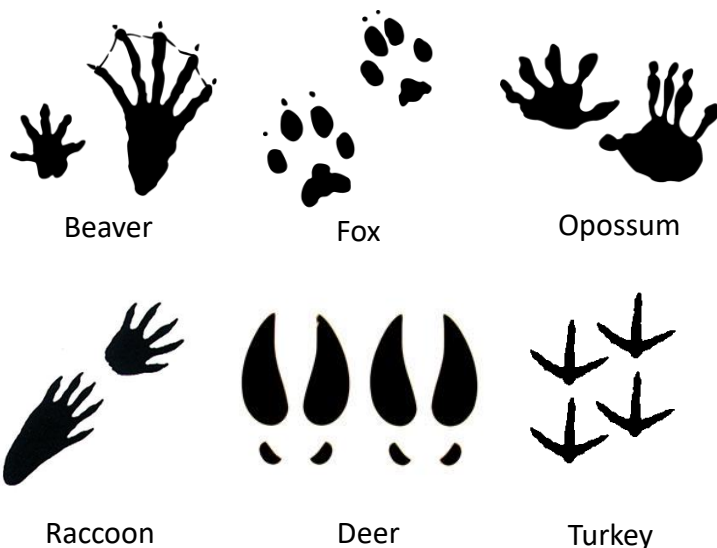
The next time you are in forested area, take a look at the variety of leaves. Leaves come in all shapes, sizes and colors. Some leaves are hairy while others have distinct smells. Leaves can help you identify trees.



Tracks & Traces of Wildlife

Wildlife is all around, even if you don't see or hear it directly. Sometimes, you can find out if wildlife use a particular area by looking for signs like tracks, scat (droppings), fur, feathers, etc.

What are other signs of wildlife can you think of?



For more info on Maryland wildlife, go to:
dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/mdwllists.aspx

Your Observations

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

What animal did you see? _____

What was the animal doing? _____

Insect, Spider & More Checklist

- Ant
- Bumble Bee
- Butterfly
- Caterpillar
- Centipede
- Cricket
- Dragonfly
- Damselfly
- Daddy Longlegs
- Grasshopper
- Honey Bee
- House Fly
- Lady Bug
- Mosquito
- Moth
- Sow bug
- Spider
- Wasp
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

What was the neatest insect that you found?

Why was it so neat?

How many body parts does it have? _____

How many legs? _____

How many wings? _____

Does it have antennae? _____

What was it doing? _____

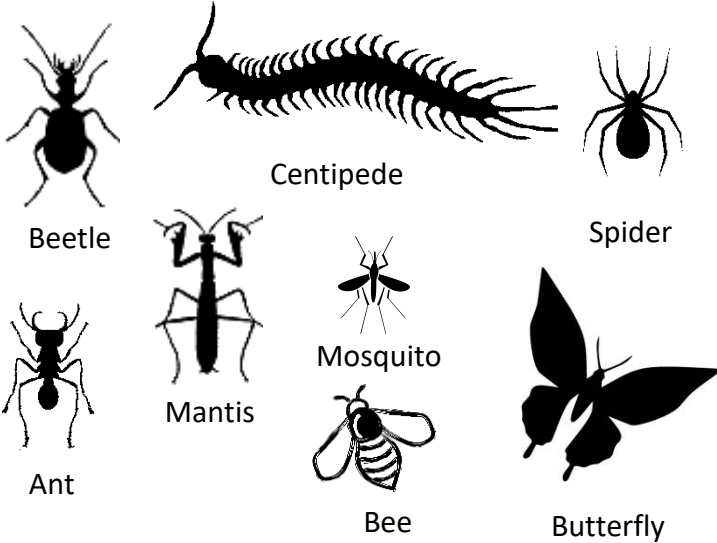
Other Notes:



Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Insect Identification

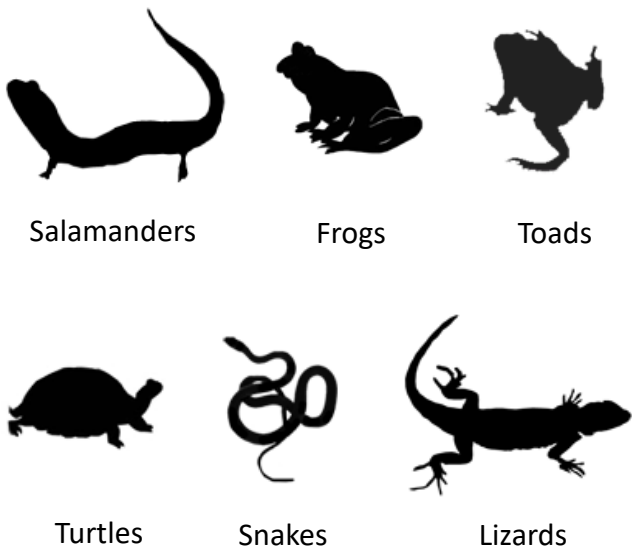
Did you know there are more insects in the world than any other group of animals? While some insects are pests, most insects are an important food source for other animals. Insects always have 6 legs, 3 main body parts, antennae, 2 compound eyes and wings. Spiders, on the other hand, have 8 legs, 3 body parts, no antennae, 6-8 eyes and no wings. Become a bug tracker and go on an insect safari in your neighborhood or in a local park .



For more info on Maryland bugs, go to:
dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/mdwllists.aspx

Looking for Herps

Reptiles and amphibians are also known as “herps”. Over 90 different species of herps can be found in Maryland. Maryland herps can be separated out into the following groups.



For more info on Maryland herps, go to:
dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/herps/index.aspx

Signs of Wildlife Observations

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

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Your Observations

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

What animal did you see? _____

What was the animal doing? _____