CONTUNING YOUR SCIENCE JOURNAL

How can you continue to use your journal for scientific research and to further investigate your area?

Record

Feeder/Flower Survey - Find a spot where you can comfortably observe a bird feeder or group of flowers for 10 minutes or more. Create a "t-chart" in your journal by filling a page with a big lower-case "t." Label the top left column "Type" and the top right column "#." Each time you see a new type of bird or bug visit the feeder or flower, write it down in the left column and begin marking how many times that same type of critter returns on the right. If you don't know the name of the creature you are observing, write a simple description like "gray bird" or "yellow moth."
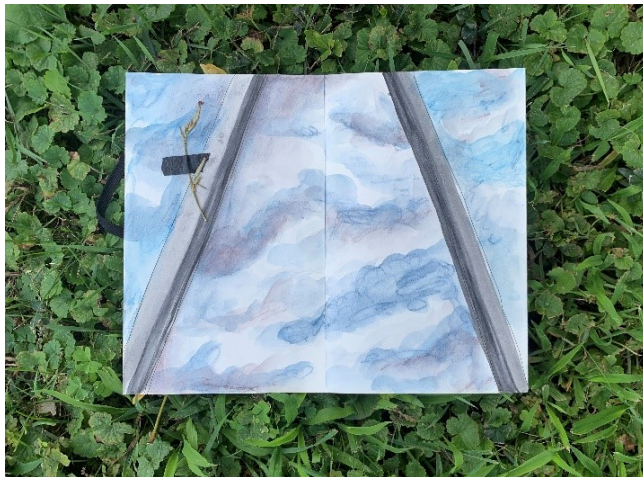

Create

Leaf Printing – Make a print to understand the parts of a plant and its textures. Find a leaf or other plant with texture on its surface. Use marker, acrylic paint, watercolor, or any material that make take time to dry, and color the textured surface of the plant. Gently press the plant, with the color side facing down on a page within your journal. Lift your plant to reveal your print. If you know what type of plant you printed, you can record this in your journal too.

Explore

Nature Scavenger Hunt - Create a scavenger hunt for someone else by dividing a journal page into sections like a "tic-tac-toe" board, exploring your yard or house, and writing down descriptions of unique and interesting things you discover. Each section of your journal page will describe one object such as "small green berries" or "bird poop on a rock." See if someone else can find all of the things you described. If they need help, offer more clues.

Observe

Sketching the Sky – Look outside your window or from within your yard and notice the sky. In your journal use watercolors or colored pencils to capture what you see. Notice the colors, clouds, and anything that may be flying around.

For in depth instructions on Sketching the Sky, check out this instructional PDF.