

Nature Study: Connecting Children with Our Creator and Creation

What is Nature Study?

Psalm 104

A Few Famous Naturalists through History

Francis of Assisi

Isaac Newton

Thomas Jefferson

Lewis and Clark

John Muir

Nature Study and Integrated Education

Charlotte Mason

How to Get Started

Simple!

Decide on a realistic goal (weekly, monthly)

Gather your materials

Choose a spot to visit through the year

Move quietly through the area

Watch and Listen

Identify, Record and Sketch

Be sure to add the date on your entry!

Activities for When You are not out Observing

Bible verses: copy, illustrate and memorize

Flower Press

Research your area: what plants and wildlife exist?

Plant a garden at home

Make displays for your specimens

Finish sketches begun during observation times

Tools

Day pack

Sketchbook

Pencils: colored and sketching

Recommend Prismacolor

Sit upon or blanket

Sunscreen/hat

Binoculars

Hand lens

Field guides for identification

Water

Snack

Baggies or jars with hole-y lids for specimens

Resources for Your Preparation

Handbook of Nature Study, Anna Comstock

Audubon Field Guides

Sketchbook/Notebook, Bienfang (half page blank, half lined)

It is a spiral bound notebook of recycled paper

Sharing Nature with Children, Joseph Cornell, 1979 (newer edition available)

Fun with Nature (A Take Along Guide) NorthWord Press, 1999

Roots Shoots Buckets and Boots, Sharon Lovejoy, 1999

Sunflower Houses, Sharon Lovejoy, 1991

Hours in the Out of Doors: A Charlotte Mason Nature Study handbook, Sonya Shafer, Karen Smith, e-book or printed

Web Sources for further reference:

<http://handbookofnaturestudy.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.squidoo.com/naturestudywithchildren>

http://charlottemason.tripod.com/backyard_nature.htm

<http://heartofthematteronline.com/index.php?s=nature+study>

<http://simplycharlottemason.com/>