

# NATURE THROUGH THE SEASONS

Take your class outdoors throughout the school year and get to know your local parks. Use this calendar to guide themes for your park visits and connect with nature through the seasons.

## SEPTEMBER

**National Forests Week, World Cleanup Day, National Tree Day, World Environmental Health Day**

**Look for:** beaver activity, spiders, salamanders, tree frogs, salmon

**Listen for:** goldfinches, robins

**Do:** start a nature journal, get to know an outdoor space

**Study:** seasonal changes, salmon, native plants, seed dispersal

**Plant highlights:** snowberry, maples, yarrow

## OCTOBER

**Take Me Outside Day**

**Look for:** tree frogs, salamanders, slugs, insects, mushrooms, fall leaves

**Listen for:** crunching leaves, puddle splashes, crows

**Do:** iNaturalist/Seek scavenger hunts, get involved with community plantings

**Study:** biodiversity, producers/consumers/decomposers, soil science

**Plant highlights:** deciduous trees—bigleaf maple, vine maple, red alder

## NOVEMBER

**Take a Hike Day (US)**

**Look for:** mushrooms, ferns, slugs and snails

**Listen for:** geese, kinglets, chickadees

**Do:** nature art, bug hunt, puddle science

**Study:** animals preparing for winter, adaptations, lichen and fungi, leaf variations, nature's recyclers, traditional plant use

**Plant highlights:** sword fern, licorice fern, lady fern

## DECEMBER

**Christmas Bird Count**

**Look for:** signs of wildlife, migratory ducks, dark-eyed juncos

**Listen for:** squirrels, chickadees, ravens

**Do:** bird watch, sketch in nature, animal tracking activities

**Study:** migratory birds, evergreen trees, weather

**Plant highlights:** Douglas-fir, Western hemlock, Western redcedar, Sitka spruce

## JANUARY

**National Bird Day**

**Look for:** signs of wildlife, chickadees, woodpeckers, birds of prey

**Listen for:** scurrying rodents, ravens, chickadees, ice cracking

**Do:** bird watch, winter nature walks

**Study:** winter adaptations, trees in winter, ponds in winter

**Plant highlights:** Douglas-fir, Western hemlock, Western redcedar, Sitka spruce

## FEBRUARY

**World Wetlands Day, Great Backyard Bird Count, World Invasive Species Awareness week (end of February-early March)**

**Look for:** birds of prey, crows gathering nest materials

**Listen for:** varied thrush, chickadees

**Do:** PlantWatch, take field notes about your outdoor space in winter, sap rising

**Study:** wetlands, urban birds

**Plant highlights:** salal, osoberry, tall Oregon grape

## MARCH

**International Day of Forests, World Wildlife Day**

**Look for:** bird courting behaviours, cherry and plum blossoms, eagles building nests

**Listen for:** owls calling, frog chorus, eagles

**Do:** PlantWatch, sketch plant buds, learn about urban street trees

**Study:** seasonal changes, fruit trees

**Plant highlights:** osoberry, red-flowering currant, skunk cabbage

## APRIL

**Earth Month, Earth Day, Arbor Day, National Wildlife Week, World Parks Week (end of April-early May), Bat Appreciation Day, City Nature Challenge**

**Look for:** shade tree blossoms, ladybugs, bumblebees, tadpoles, rabbits

**Listen for:** hummingbirds, red-winged blackbirds, robins

**Do:** start a garden, spring scavenger hunt, BloomWatch, get involved with a community shade tree planting

**Study:** pollinators, shade trees, breeding plumage, plant life cycle, parts of a flower

**Plant highlights:** Pacific bleeding heart, trillium, starflower, Pacific dogwood, red huckleberry

## MAY

**Invasive Species Action Month, International Migratory Bird Day, International Day for Biodiversity, World Bee Day**

**Look for:** rhododendrons, ducklings, owls, new growth on evergreen trees, pond invertebrates, beaver activity

**Listen for:** red-winged blackbirds, flickers

**Do:** monitor plants and shade trees, renovate tree wells

**Study:** pond invertebrates, animal breeding cycles, insect metamorphosis, invasive species, shade tree care

**Plant highlights:** thimbleberry, red elderberry, horse-chestnut, evergreen trees, lupines, horsetails, mountain ash

## JUNE

**Great Outdoors Month, World Environment Day, World Oceans Day, Nature Photography Day, International Trails Day**

**Look for:** new growth on evergreen trees, insects and arachnids, juvenile birds, swallows

**Listen for:** owl fledglings, juvenile birds

**Do:** bug hunt, nature journal, litter pick

**Study:** juvenile birds and animals, wetland ecosystems, benefits of insects

**Plant highlights:** baldhip and Nootka roses, snowberry, trailing blackberry, red-osier dogwood, spiraea (hardhack)

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