

Links tested: 7/21/25

University of Michigan Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center Seasonal Nature Explorations Program, Pre and Post-Visit Resources

Welcome to the Seasonal Nature Explorations program resource page. Here you will find links to resources pertaining to this program, along with important concepts and relevant literature. Certain links are for short, educational, program-specific videos, while others are images, sounds, worksheets, or fact sheets related to the program. Descriptions are included with the links. The pre-visit resources will help introduce students to our Seasonal Nature Explorations program and the post-visit resources will help reinforce their experiences.

All of the resources provide supplementary and complementary information for the program. Enjoy!

Pre-Visit Resources:

Introductory Concepts:

Habitat - place where plants and animals live

Ecosystem - all living and nonliving things in an area

Adaptation - a special skill or body part that helps an organism survive in the wild

Nature Sanctuary - a safe place for the plants and animals that live there

Biodiversity - the variety of living things in a given area

Sights and Sounds: (video and/or audio)

Michigan bird ID with audio/images (2:45 minute clip)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjlsDQaGJ9Q>

Common Backyard Bird Sounds (with facts and images)

https://www.audubon.org/news/get-know-these-20-common-birds?emci=5c83d079-5aed-e911-b5e9-2818784d6d68&emdi=51e5cfd1-f8f8-e911-828b-2818784d6d68&ceid=2294616&ms=digital-eng-email-ea-series-engagement_common-birds_recently-wide&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_common-birds&utm_content=recently-wide

Literature:

On the Nature Trail: What Will You Find? (Backpack Explorer) by Editors of Storey Publishing (beginner field guide)

Nature Anatomy: The Curious Parts and Pieces of the Natural World by Julia Rothman

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Additional Information/Worksheets:

Michigan Spring Wildflowers (images and descriptions)

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Guide_to_spring_wildflower_hikes_accessible_687843_7.pdf

Michigan Spring/Summer Birds (images and descriptions)

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Hartwick_Pines_Guide_to_spring_summer_birds_692606_7.pdf

Michigan Animal Homes Worksheet (matching sheet-for lower elementary)

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Wildlifehabitatactivitypage_685064_7.pdf

Post-Visit Resources:

Concepts to Reinforce: (in addition to introductory concepts)

Migration - moving from one place to another often on a regular basis

Camouflage - the ability to blend in with one's surroundings

Endotherms (Warm-blooded) - organism can regulate their internal body temperature

Ectotherms (Cold-blooded) - organism cannot regulate their internal body temperature

Additional Literature:

Can You Hear the Trees Talking? Discovering the Hidden Life of the Forest by Peter Wohlleben

Hidden Wildlife: How Animals Hide in Plain Sight by Jim Arnosky

My First Book About Backyard Nature: Ecology for Kids! by Patricia J Wynne & Donald M Silver

Additional Information: (articles, documents, videos, images)

Oh Deer! White-Tailed Deer Biology-Cornell Naturalist Outreach (8 minute informative video all about deer)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4UjWTNeTdU&list=UUyKn4uBQZ_RNqmrG67VjCUA&index=28

Common Michigan Tree Leaves ID sheet

<http://hikingmichigan.com/PDFinfo/Leaves%20ID.pdf>

Forest Ecosystems (making connections from small species to large system)

<https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/7/3643/files/2013/09/Forest-Ecosystems-1q1x758.pdf>

Bird Migration video-Cornell Naturalist Outreach (great 8:30 minute video about N. American bird migration)

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwIT9pv4khw>