

# SCIENCE SATURDAY: OBSERVING & RECORDING



*“Keeping records enhances the pleasure of the search and the chance of finding order and meaning in these events.”*  
- Aldo Leopold

Scientists use observation to collect and record data, enabling them to construct and then test hypotheses and theories, so that they can learn and make new discoveries about the world in which we live. Aldo Leopold, his family and others have kept meticulous records, for over a century, describing events such as budding trees, flowering plants, returning migratory birds and the calls of songbirds at dawn. As the seasons change, you, too, can record your own observations about the events you experience in nature to appreciate and learn more about the natural world.

## NATURE JOURNALING

Make and record your own observations in nature.

**Materials:** A notebook and any writing utensil (pen, pencil, markers, crayons)

**How it works:**

1. Grab your notebook and writing utensil(s) and head outside to a place you enjoy in nature or find a comfortable spot near a window.
2. Open your senses and observe. What do you see? What do you hear? How many different plants and animals do you see? Is the temperature cold or warm? Is the sun out or maybe the moon?
3. Write or draw your observations in your notebook. Don't forget to record the date, time and location of where you are making your observations. Have questions? Write them down to research later.