FAMILY FIELDTRIP LEARNING ADVENTURES

IDEAS TO FOSTER CONNECTIONS TO HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS

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Introduction

In typical years KLF’s Education Committee serves our mission and works toward our vision by providing field trips to schools, participating in community programs such as the Water Festival, and hosting fun and engaging events like our art in the woods programs. But 2020 was far from a typical year and it’s unclear when we’ll be able to enjoy our group activities again sometime in 2021.

In order to continue connecting people to healthy ecosystems and to foster a mindset that takes action to preserve the environment in 2020 we created a number of simple and engaging Learning Adventure Field Trips for Families. These Family Field Trip Learning Adventures are intended to prompt people to get outdoors. We want them to learn a little bit and engage in some easy and fun activities. Our hope is that the Learning
Adventure will spark curiosity to learn and explore more.

In this book we have collected together all the Family Field Trip Learning Adventures as well as links to some additional resources. The Learning Adventures are designed so that they can be done by visiting outdoor spaces such as parks or preserves or, in many cases, in your own backyard. These adventures are intended to be shared by the entire family.

So turn the page, pick field trip and have fun on a learning adventure.
Unleash Your Senses
Destination: Outdoors

Learning Goals:

- Engage all the senses in exploring nature
- Understand why animals in the wild would need to use all their senses to survive
- Identify the senses that humans rely on the most.

Activity:
- Share photos of the things you find on social media
Can You Find:

- Plant that isn’t a tree that is taller than you
- Leaf that is bigger than your hand
- Leaf that is shorter than your finger
- Plant that is shorter than your little toe
Day Two

Touch

Can You find:

- Bark that is rough
- Bark that is smooth
- Rock that is rough
- Rock that is smooth
Day Three

Sound

Can You Hear:

- Bird song
- Insect hum
- Wind in the trees
- Animal sound
Day Four

Smell

Can You Smell:

- Grass
- Moss
- Leaf
- Soil
Day Five
Taste
Can You Taste Something That Is:

- A Leaf
- A root
- A seed
- A fruit
Visit a Forest

Destination: One of the many forests nearby. 
Hint: If the word Preserve is in the name then it’s probably a forest.

Learning Goals:

- Recognize at least Three Species of Trees
- Learn about Forest Succession—how a forest grows and ages
- Answer the question which stage was the forest you visited

Activity:
- Make a rubbing or take a close up photo of the bark of a tree.
- Share your forest visit on social media
Going Further
If You Want to Learn More About Forests

Resources:

- https://www.frontlinewildfire.com/how-forest-recovers-wildfire/
- Peter and the Tree Children by Peter Wohlleben
- The Magic and Mystery of Trees by Jen Green
- The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben
- Brilliant Green by Stefano Mancuso
Plant Identification

Destination: Anywhere Plants Grow

Learning Goals:

- Recognize at least Three Plants
- Learn about the uses of each identified plant
- List three things a plant does

Activity:

- Make use of a plant
- Share your plant usage on social media
Going Further
If You Want to Learn More About Plants

Resources:

- Herbal Adventures: Backyard Excursions and Kitchen Creations for Kids and Their Families by Rachel Jepson Wolf
- A Kid's Herb Book: For Children of All Ages by Lesley Tierra
What's a Keta Anyway?

Destination: A Salmon Stream

Learning Goals:

- Know what Keta means
- Know why a salmon stream needs trees growing along the banks
- Understand what 4 C’s does a salmon stream require

Hint: Google Oncorhynchus keta

Activity:

- Share your favorite fact about Keta
Going Further
If You Want to Learn More About Keta

Resources:

- KETA'S WORLD: The Life of an Extraordinary Chum Salmon by Jim Ames
- https://www.britannica.com/animal/chum-salmon
Hitchhikers and Helicopters

Destination: Anywhere Plants and Trees are making seeds

Learning Goals:

- Recognize what a seed is
- Discover how some seeds hitchhike to new locations and other seeds fly like helicopters
- Understand why seeds need to travel

Activity:

- Find a hitchhiking seed and a helicopter seed
- Find a seed that travels in another way and describe how it travels
- Share your seed discoveries on social media
Going Further
If You Want to Learn More About Seeds

Resources:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Vk-gXwHDSM
- The Dandelion Seed: A Life Cycle Nature Book for Kids by Joseph P. Anthony and Cris Arbo
- Flip, Float, Fly: Seeds on the Move by Joann Early Macken
Animal Adaptations

Destination: Where Beavers Were Active

Learning Goals:

- Understand what an adaptation is
- Identify four beaver adaptations
- Describe why beavers need those adaptations

Activity:

- Freeze a banana on a stick and try to cut the banana down just using your teeth like a beaver would.
- Share pictures or videos of you cutting down your banana
Going Further
If You Want to Learn More About Beavers

Resources:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJjaQExOPPY
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zm6X77ShHa8
Going Further
If You Want to Learn More About Beavers, Otters, and Muskrats

Resources:

- https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/river-otter/
- https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/north-american-river-otter
- https://www.havahart.com/muskrat-facts
- https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/species/ondatra-zibethicus
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muskrat
Problem Solving Plants

Destination: Wherever Plants Grow

Learning Goals:

- Understand that plants have adaptations that help them thrive
- Recognize the structure of a leaf
- Identify some plant adaptations

Activity:

- Find a plant conserving water and give it a drink. Watch what happens.
- Share what happened when you gave a thirsty plant water
Going Further
If You Want to Learn More About Plant Adaptations

Resources:

- https://conservatoryofflowers.org/sites/default/files/Plant%20Adaptations.pdf
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2CTwj_b0hg
Backyard Box Bioblitz

Destination: Where Green Things Grow

Learning Goals:

- Calculate the area inside your box
- Discover the diversity of life in even a small area
- Classify flora and fauna (plants and animal life)

Activity:

- Take a box and remove the bottom (or simply fold the sides in on the top and bottom) to make an open parallelogram which you place on the ground.
- Document all the life you find within the confines of your box
Going Further
If You Want to Learn More About Square Foot Nature

Resources:

- https://youtu.be/r9x1RuDjJwM
- https://franklloydwright.org/nature-study-observe-document-design/
Contemplating Cones

Destination: Where Evergreen Trees Live

Learning Goals:

- Be able to recognize a fir cone or a pine cone
- Describe the differences between fir cones and pine cones
- Understand where the seeds are located on fir and pine cones

Activity:

- Remove the seeds from a fir or pine cone and plant them.
- Share what you learned
Going Further
If You Want to Learn More About Cones

Resources:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLdNY7Y0U7g
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_fGK5lpPn0
Fascinating Ferns

Destination: Where Ferns Grow

Learning Goals:

- Recognize ferns
- Identify the parts of a fern
- Know the two ways ferns reproduce

Activity:

- Find a sword fern and examine the sori on the underside of the pinna.
- Share your sword fern
Going Further
If You Want to Learn More About Ferns

Resources:

- Pacific Coast Fern Finder by Glenn Keator, Ph.D and Ruth M. Heady; Illustrated by Valerie R. Winemiller
- http://nativeplantspnw.com/ferns/
Rocking Those Rocks

Destination: Place You Can Find a Smooth Rock on the Ground

Learning Goals:

- Understand what Glacial Till is
- Identify Rocks that are the result of Glacial Till
- Understand why our soil is Glacial Till

Activity:

- Compare the smoothness of a rock from Glacial Till with that of a River or Ocean Rock
- Share your rock
Going Further
If You Want to Learn More About Glacial Till

Resources:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbYXiJsF5mw
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuXrpE-E7ig
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvRXWbTZ8YY
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6gk1b4ACP0
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loI584OFVpE
Going Further
If You Want to Learn More About Glacial Till

Vocabulary List:

- Abrasion
- Compression
- Deposition
- Erosion
- Gravity
- Plucking
- Pressure
- Transport
Biomimicry

Destination: Where Nature Meets Manufacture

Learning Goals:

- Learn what Biomimicry is
- Identify products we use today that were inspired by nature
- Discover areas where biomimicry is being studied for possible solution

Activity:

- Imagine what problem a leaf could solve
- Share your idea
Going Further
If You Want to Learn More About Biomimicry

Resources:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wlppif9IJzl
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHb_XNgIHFY
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2GvQXvjhLA
Art from Nature

Destination: Where Ever You Can Find Natural Materials

Learning Goals:

• Use Creativity
• Remember there are Many Ways to Connect with the Environment

Activity:

• Share your artwork
If You Want to Learn More About Nature Art

Resources:

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxl4v-xBOPM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxl4v-xBOPM)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=da-ghe-xes-g8l](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=da-ghe-xes-g8l)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0rjvanqbl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0rjvanqbl)
Woods Words

Destination: Inside a Poem about Nature and Outdoors at a Place Related to the Poem

Learning Goals:

- Explore Descriptive Language
- Think critically about which words best describe natural places or phenomenon.
- Have fun with word

Activity:

- Share your favorite nature poem
- Write a poem of your own
Going Further
If You Want to Learn More About Nature Poems

Resources:

- A Nature Poem for Every Day of the Year by Jane McMorland Hunter
- Sing a Song of Seasons: A Nature Poem for Each Day of the Year by Nosy Crow, Fiona Waters, et al.