



HIGHLANDS BIOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

Week 4

Nearby Nature – Phenology

Monday 4/6

Show how trees change through the seasons at home with your kiddos using today's [#NearbyNature](#) activity brought to us by [Arty Crafty Kids](#) (Check out their Facebook page for more awesome crafting ideas!). This is a great basic introduction to the idea of [#phenology](#) - **the study of seasonal change and timing of life events like flowering, leafing, migration, etc.**

All you need for this craft is:

- 1.) Paper
- 2.) Paint
- 3.) Q-tips (or a finger)
- 4.) A hand

Try to experiment by mixing different paint colors and share your family's creations with us!

Click this link to see how it's done: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zo-PupQqvSU>

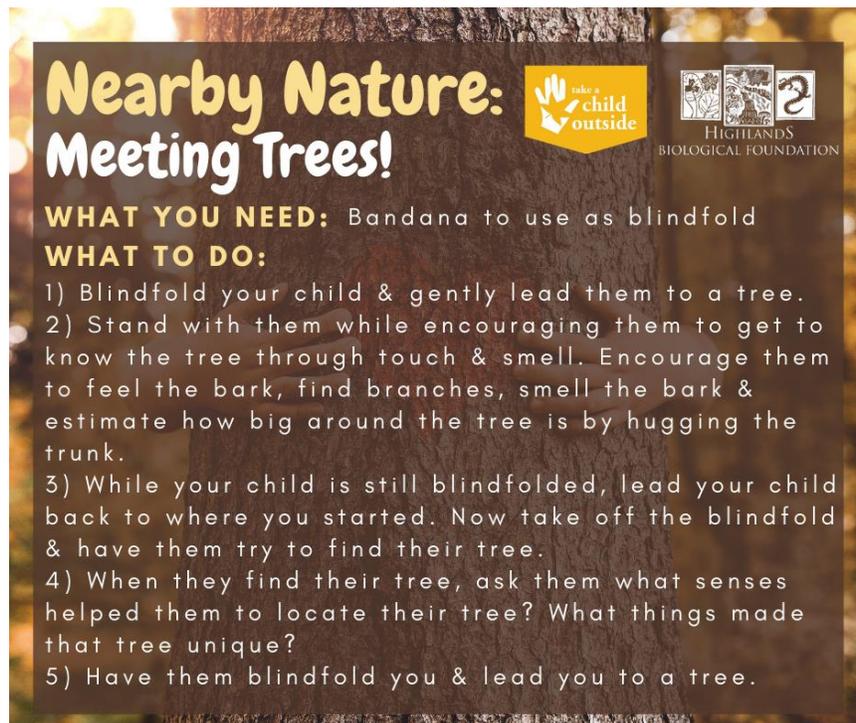


Tuesday 4/7

Grab a blindfold and head outside for today's #NearbyNature activity shown below! This activity is from the [North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences](#) 's Take a Child Outside (TACO) initiative. While you're outside, pick a tree to observe for the remaining #NearbyNature activities we'll be sharing with you this week. 🌲 🌲

To see other fun tree and plant activities from TACO, visit:

<https://takeachildoutside.org/trees-and-other-plants/>



Nearby Nature:
Meeting Trees!

WHAT YOU NEED: Bandana to use as blindfold

WHAT TO DO:

- 1) Blindfold your child & gently lead them to a tree.
- 2) Stand with them while encouraging them to get to know the tree through touch & smell. Encourage them to feel the bark, find branches, smell the bark & estimate how big around the tree is by hugging the trunk.
- 3) While your child is still blindfolded, lead your child back to where you started. Now take off the blindfold & have them try to find their tree.
- 4) When they find their tree, ask them what senses helped them to locate their tree? What things made that tree unique?
- 5) Have them blindfold you & lead you to a tree.

Wednesday 4/8

Trees are leafing out now that spring is in the air! 🌲 It's the perfect time to go outside for #NearbyNature and observe the twigs and buds of your favorite tree using [Project Learning Tree](#) 's family activity "Bursting Buds." Examine the buds closely, take photos or record your findings in a sketchbook, and check back every few days to track changes. Do you know what kind of tree you chose? How are the buds going to turn into leaves?

PLT's "Bursting Buds" activity: <https://www.plt.org/family-activity/bursting-buds/>

While you're outside, you and your family can also do this [Kids in Parks](#) "Buds Become Blossoms" activity together: https://www.kidsinparks.com/.../KIP_BudsBecomeBlossomsTRACKti...

[#phenology](#)

Thursday 4/9

As a follow-up to yesterday's #NearbyNature , we're sharing this awesome resource from the [Asheville Museum of Science](#) . They've created a video and activity booklet on phenology - the study of seasonal change and timing of life events. This is a great way to help you and your family track and record the seasonal changes of your favorite tree so that you can visualize what is happening as we get further into spring! 🌲 🌱

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0rmYUIbiao>

Activity Booklet: <https://ashevillescience.org/.../.../My-Plant-Phenology-Book.pdf>

Friday 4/10

Post 1:

Did you know that April is #CitizenScienceMonth ? [Prairie Ridge Ecostation](#) shared the perfect citizen science project for this week's #NearbyNature theme - phenology. Watch the video below to learn about how you and your family can be a part of Nature's Notebook and help collect data on how climate and weather influence the timing of seasonal changes in plants and animals!

Video: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=260703435096611>

Click here for more information on Nature's Notebook: https://www.usanpn.org/natures_notebook

Post 2:

Here are some more great #phenology resources to accompany this week's #NearbyNature theme thanks to [Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont](#) . Check out their video below along with the link for how you can try out phenology at home using Nature's Notebook. 😊 #CitizenScienceMonth

Video: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=748576032215456>

To learn more about phenology at Tremont Institute: <https://gsmit.org/phenology/>

To learn more about how you can try out phenology at home: <https://www.usanpn.org/nn/become-observer>