



Outdoor Hour Challenge

Seasonal Tree Study #11, #20, #36, and #47

Seasonal Weather Study #39 and #40

<http://handbookofnaturestudy.blogspot.com>

Getting Started Challenges also available at:

<http://www.lulu.com/content/6059459>

Outdoor Hour Challenge #11

Begin a Four Season Tree Study

1. Read in the Handbook of Nature Study pages 622-623. Also read page 625, Spring Work. After reading, turn in the table of contents to the tree section and read the list of trees covered in this book. If possible, pick a tree from the list that you have in your yard, on your street, or in a near-by park that you can observe over the course of the next year. My boys and I have been working on a tree study with an oak tree since August of 2007. The changes in the tree have given us something to study in each season. If you live in a more exotic location, like some participants who live in Australia, Brazil, or Spain, do your best to compare your tree to a similar tree in the Handbook of Nature Study. Many of the observations can be used to study a variety of trees.

Before heading out for your nature study time, read the introductory section for your particular tree with your children. Make sure to read the observation suggestions for your particular tree and keep these in mind as you go out to observe your tree. You will be challenged in each season of the coming year to make an observation for your tree and record any changes. I have prepared a journal page to record your observations. See the end of the blog entry for a link to the journal page.

2. Take your 10-15 minute outdoor time to study the tree you are going to observe over the next year. We took photos of our tree to put in our nature journal or you can sketch them right into your journal. Keep in mind the suggestions for observation that you read in the Handbook of Nature Study. If you have younger children, just spend your time observing your tree and helping them to look at it closely.

3. Add anything new to your list of items observed in your focus area that you are keeping in your nature journal. Make note of any additional research that needs to be done to follow up interest found during your Outdoor Hour.

4. Complete the Seasonal Tree Study journal page with your child. Place the page in your nature notebook to have for comparison in the next seasonal tree challenge.

5. Post an entry on your blog sharing your experiences and then come back to the Green Hour Challenge post and add your blog link to Mr. Linky. All the challenges are listed in a drop-down menu on the sidebar of my blog.

Outdoor Challenge #20

Seasonal Tree Observation-Summer

1. We started a tree study project way back in challenge #11 and make our first observations of our tree. If you would like to review this section in the Handbook of Nature Study, you will find it on pages 622-626. This week the challenge includes making the next seasonal observation of your tree. If your first observation was in spring, you are now into summer and your tree should look a little different. If you are just joining the challenges, pick a tree from your yard, your street, or a near-by park to observe over the course of the next year. Check in the Handbook of Nature Study to see if your tree is listed there and then do the reading about that particular tree. There should be some suggestions for observations that you can follow. You can use the prepared seasonal tree study page to record your observations.

2. Take your 10-15 minute outdoor time to study the tree you are going to observe over the next year. You can take photos of your tree to put in your nature journal or you can sketch the tree in your journal. If you need help with tree sketching you can use this resource.

Clare Walkers' Tree Guide

http://lessonsforhope.org/pdf/Guide_To_Tree_Sketching_PDF.pdf

3. If you have additional time this week, you could complete another small square activity from challenge #9.

4. After your outdoor time, complete your Seasonal Tree Study sheet or record your tree observations in your nature journal. Take a few minutes to talk about your time outdoors to see if there is anything that your child wants to learn more about. Follow up any interest shown.

5. Post an entry on your blog sharing your experiences and then come back to the Outdoor Hour Challenge post and add your blog link to Mr. Linky. All the challenges are listed on the sidebar of the Handbook of Nature Study blog.

Outdoor Challenge #36

Seasonal Tree Observation-Autumn

1. We started a tree study project way back in challenge #11 and make our first observations of our tree. Then during the summer we completed a summer observation of the same tree in challenge #20. If you would like to review this section in the Handbook of Nature Study, you will find it on pages 622-626. This week the challenge includes making the next seasonal observation of your tree. If you are just joining the challenges, pick a tree from your yard, your street, or a near-by park to observe over the course of the next year. Check in the Handbook of Nature Study to see if your tree is listed there and then do the reading about that particular tree. There should be some suggestions for observations that you can follow. You can use the prepared seasonal tree study page to record your observations.

2. Take your 10-15 minute outdoor time to study the tree you are going to observe over the next year. You can take photos of your tree to put in your nature journal or you can sketch the tree in your journal. If you need help with tree sketching you can use this resource.

Clare Walkers' Tree Guide

http://lessonsforhope.org/pdf/Guide_To_Tree_Sketching_PDF.pdf

3. After your outdoor time, complete your Seasonal Tree Study sheet or record your tree observations in your nature journal. Take a few minutes to talk about your time outdoors to see if there is anything that your child wants to learn more about. Follow up any interest shown.

4. Post an entry on your blog sharing your experiences and then come back to the Outdoor Hour Challenge post and add your blog link to Mr. Linky. All the challenges are listed on the sidebar of the Handbook of Nature Study blog.

Outdoor Challenge #47
Seasonal Tree Observation-Winter

1. We are now completing our full circle study of a tree in our yard.. If you completed challenges 11, 20, and 36, you will now be observing your tree in its fourth season. This week you will use the suggestions on pages 624-625 of the *Handbook of Nature Study* to make general winter observations of your tree. You can record your thoughts either in your nature journal or on the Seasonal Tree Study page.
2. Take your 10-15 minute outdoor time to study your tree. If you are just starting out with a tree study, pick a tree from your yard that you can watch through all four seasons. The *Handbook of Nature Study* suggests taking a twig from your tree and looking at the tree's buds carefully. See page 624 #3 for more details.
3. After your outdoor time, complete your Seasonal Tree Study notebook page or record your tree observations in your nature journal. You can take photos of your tree to put in your nature journal. The *Handbook of Nature Study* suggests sketching your tree to show its shape as it stands bare. Take a few minutes to talk about your time outdoors to see if there is anything that your child wants to learn more about. Follow up any interest shown.
4. Post an entry on your blog sharing your experiences and then come back to the Outdoor Hour Challenge post and add your blog link to Mr. Linky. All the challenges are listed on the sidebar of the Handbook of Nature Study blog.

Outdoor Hour Challenge #39

Weather Challenge #1

"The weather is the condition of the atmosphere at the moment, while climate is the sum total of weather conditions over a period of several years."

Handbook of Nature Study, page 780

1. Read pages 808-814 in the Handbook of Nature Study. This section describes in detail water forms found at various times during the year. Make sure to highlight or underline the sections in the text that talk about water forms that your family may experience in your local area.

"Water in its various changing forms, liquid, gas, and solid, is an example of another overworked miracle-so common that we fail to see the miraculous in it."

It might be helpful to do some online research and view the various cloud types. Try the following links to images of different kinds of clouds:

http://geography-info.com/physical/images/6/cloud_types.jpg

<http://www.eo.ucar.edu/webweather/cloud3.html>

2. Spend 15 to 20 minutes outdoors this week with your children in your own yard or on your own street. Make sure to take note of any clouds in the sky and try to put into words what they look like. Use words like fluffy, wispy, thin, dark, high, low, and any other terms you can remember from the links above or from the Handbook of Nature Study. If your area is experiencing some type of precipitation, try to still go outdoors for a few minutes. Bundle up or put on a hat and rain boots. See if you can find a puddle or a patch of ice or snow and take your time to observe what you can about it. Is it windy during your outdoor time? See if you can figure out which direction the wind is coming from and how strong it is. Does it move the leaves or the branches on a tree? Do you see a flag that is rippling in the wind or is it straight out? If you have a thermometer, you can note the temperature.

3. To follow up your outdoor time, spend a few minutes discussing what you experienced with your children. Find out if they have any questions about the weather that you can research together this week. The Handbook of Nature Study includes numerous specific weather related activities that will help demonstrate weather concepts for your children. You can pick any of the activities from the pages we read this week in the Handbook of Nature Study.

4. The nature journal this week can be filled with their observations about the weather and drawings of the clouds or precipitation that they encounter during the Outdoor Hour Challenge.

5. Post an entry on your blog sharing your experiences and then come back to the Outdoor Hour Challenge post and add your blog link to Mr. Linky. All the challenges are listed on the sidebar of the Handbook of Nature Study blog.

Outdoor Hour Challenge #40
Weather Challenge #2
Seasonal Weather Observation-Autumn

1. **Read pages 790-791, sections on *Thermometer Scales in Use* and *Distribution of the Temperature and Pressure* in the *Handbook of Nature Study*.** Read the sections with a view to finding a few facts to share with your children this week about what influences the temperature of the atmosphere around us.

"The heat received on the earth from the sun is the controlling factor in all weather conditions."
Handbook of Nature Study, page 791.

2. **Pick a day this week to spend 15-20 minutes outdoors observing the weather and recording the conditions using the Seasonal Weather Study notebook page.** We will be completing a weather study challenge during each season in the coming year and the more detailed you get in your observations, the easier it will be to compare the weather from season to season.

3. **To follow up your outdoor time, spend a few minutes discussing what you experienced with your children.** Find out if they have any questions about the weather that you can research together this week. The *Handbook of Nature Study* on pages 812-814 lists numerous specific weather related activities that will help demonstrate weather concepts for your children. Please complete any of the activities that interest your family and that you have time to complete.

4. **For your nature journal this week, fill out the Seasonal Weather Study notebook page.** If you prefer to record your observations into your nature journal and not on a notebook page, look to the sample blank chart on page 791 of the *Handbook of Nature Study* for a basic recordkeeping idea.

5. **Post an entry on your blog sharing your experiences and then come back to the Outdoor Hour Challenge post and add your blog link to Mr. Linky.** All the challenges are listed on the sidebar of the *Handbook of Nature Study* blog.