

# Table of Contents

## Resource List

### January Assignments

January Goals and Calendar

Cattail Study and Notebook Page

Winter Tree Study and Notebook Page

Winter Sky and Notebook Pages

Winter Weather Study and Notebook Page

January Music Appreciation: Vivaldi, *The Four Seasons-Winter*

January Art Appreciation: Caspar David Friedrich, *Trees and Bushes in the Snow*

### February Assignments

February Goals and Calendar

Pine Tree Study and Notebook Page

Salt Study and Notebook Page

Winter Bird Study and Notebook Page

Small Square Study and Notebook Page

February Music Appreciation: Waldteufel, *Skater's Waltz*

February Art Appreciation: Gilbert Stuart, *The Skater*

### March Assignments

March Goals and Calendar

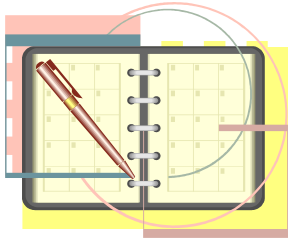
Winter Mammal Study and Notebook Page

Early Spring Flower Study and Notebook Page

March Music Appreciation: Dvorak, *Slavonic Dance in E Minor, Op. 72. No. 2*

March Art Appreciation: Monet, *Tulip Fields with Rijnsburg Windmill*

Blank Winter Notebook Page



## January Goals:

1. Winter Cattail Study (See Autumn Series Challenge #1)
2. Winter Tree Study (See Autumn Series Challenge #2)
3. Winter Sky and Stars (See Winter Wednesday Challenge #3)
4. Winter Weather Study (See Autumn Series Challenge #6)
5. Listen to Vivaldi's Four Seasons-Winter
6. Study *Trees and Bushes in the Snow* by Caspar David Friedrich



## Winter Series #2

### Winter Tree Study

#### Inside Preparation Work:

Now that winter is upon us, let's take this week and observe the tree we chose last autumn to study during each of the four seasons. 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 may wish to read through the suggested ideas for studying your tree before heading outdoors so you will have those in mind. If you started a year-long tree study a few months ago during the Autumn Series of challenges, you may want to pull out your nature journal and refresh your memory about your particular tree. Hopefully when you go outdoors you will observe some big changes.

Also, if you have the *Discover Nature in Winter* book, turn to pages 76-81 for valuable information on branch patterns, tree silhouettes, twigs, and seed containers.

#### Outdoor Hour Time:

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. Have your children make as many observations as possible, perhaps comparing the appearance to how it was during autumn. Another way to record your tree changes is to take photographs in every season. This makes for a very easy nature journal entry once you get back indoors.

#### Simple Suggestions for Winter Tree Study:

1. Pick a tree in your yard or on your street and view its branch patterns and silhouette.
2. Find a tree that has lost its leaves and sketch its shape in your nature journal. This activity can be done from a window if your weather is too cold or snowy.
3. Collect some seeds from trees that may still be left over from last season. Look for sweet gum, locust, yellow poplar, ash, mimosa, or sycamore.
4. Collect twigs from different trees and compare them.

#### Follow-Up Activity:

After your outdoor time, complete a nature journal entry using the notebook page I created for the Winter Series, a [seasonal tree notebook page](#) from my Scribd.com collection or your own blank journal. You can take photos of your tree to put in your nature journal as well. The *Handbook of Nature Study* suggests sketching your tree to show its shape as it stands bare. File your nature journal page as a record of the season.



#### Additional Project:

Anna Botsford Comstock in the *Handbook of Nature Study* suggests on page 624 to take a twig from your tree in February and look at it carefully. She suggests placing the twig in a vase of water and then leaving it in a warm, light place and see what happens to the buds. We completed this activity last year and it was a huge success. In addition to the tree twig, we also brought in a branch from our forsythia bush and watched it blossom indoors long before the bush outside bloomed. This is such an easy activity but one that will delight your children.



# Seasonal Tree Study—Winter



Date:	Tree Name:	Weather:	Location:
<p>Sketch your tree showing its shape or silhouette in the winter.</p>			
Color of the bark:	Are there any leaves left on your tree?	Are there buds on the twigs?	Are there fruits or seeds?

# Caspar David Friedrich

1774-1840

*Trees and Bushes in the Snow*

Oil painting

Things I see in this painting:

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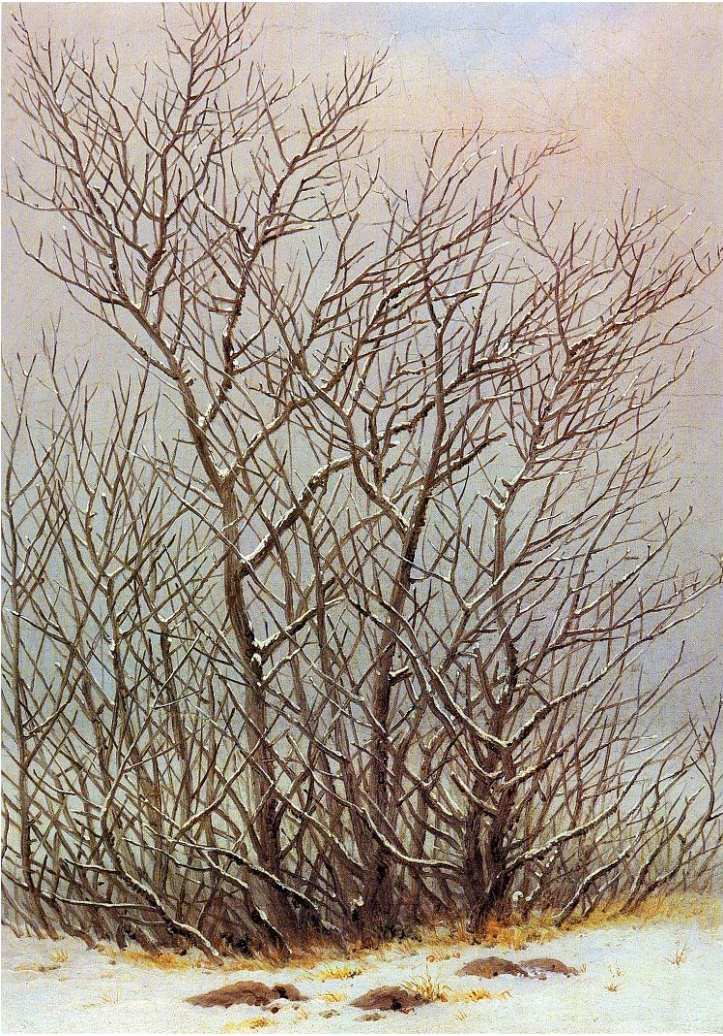


Image from [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Artist Facts– Caspar David Friedrich

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