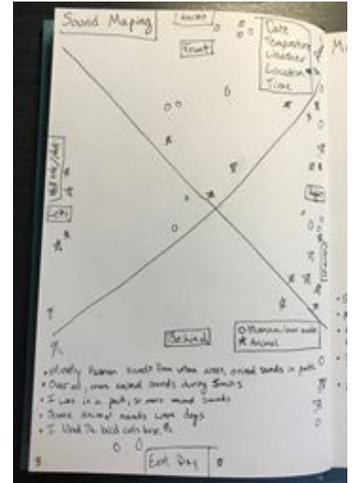


Nature Journaling: Week 2

Prompt 8 – Sound Mapping

When spending time in nature, it is important to use all of your senses. Today you will create a sound map. Open your journal and draw an X that takes up most of the page. The top part of the X represents the area in front of you, the bottom of the X represents behind you and the side represents sound to the left and right. Find a spot anywhere outside where you can observe for 10 minutes. During that 10 minutes, you will mark the sounds you hear, and from what direction the sound came. Be sure to put your marks farther away from you if it sounds like they came from farther away, and vice versa. If it was a human that made the sound make a small circle, if it was an animal put a small star. Answer the following questions when you are done.



Did you hear more nature or human sounds?

Why do you think you hear that type of sound?

Would the types of sounds be different at the different times of day or year?

Did you hear something you had never heard before?

What was your favorite sound?

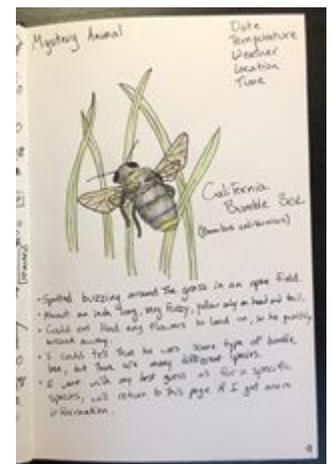
Prompt 9 – Mystery Animal

Today you will look for an animal that you have never seen before, or you want to learn more about. Animals do not tend to sit still long enough for you to do a detailed sketch, so it is best to take down quick observations in writing. For example size, color, if it has fur, feathers or scales, distinct markings, if it is in a group or alone, are all great starts for observations. Once you have a significant amount of information about the animal, head back home to make an identification. Below are resources for identifying your mystery animal.

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search>

<http://www.californiaherps.com/info/identification.html>

<https://www.sfbaywildlife.info/index.htm>



Prompt 10 – Mini Mapping

It is easy to miss some of the smaller parts of nature. Today we will take a closer look at nature right at our feet. For this entry you will need something to block off a small section of the lawn/grass/ground where you are making your journal entry. You can use sticks, a hula-hoop, a jump rope, or anything else you can take outside. Pick a spot and mark it off with your items. Spend 10 to 15 minutes sketching the area and writing about anything you observe happening there. Be sure to record all plants, grasses, animals, trash, or anything else that falls within the designated area.



Prompt 11 – Nature Haiku

Today you will describe something that happened to you or around you in nature through a poem, called a haiku. A haiku is a short poem that describes a quick moment in time. Each poem consists of three lines. The first line has five syllables, the second line has seven syllables, and the final line has five syllables. Remember, these poems do not rhyme. Head out to a local park, sit by your window, or imagine a time that you felt a strong emotion in nature. Then illustrate the poem however you see fit. This could be a detailed drawing of an animal, or an abstract representation of how the poem makes you feel.



Prompt 12 – Plant Discovery

Today you will get the chance to discover more about the plants that call your area home. Head outside and look for a plant you have never seen before (tree, flower, bush etc.) and take down as many observations as you can. You can make a rough sketch of the plant, take measurements, describe the habitat you found it in, and more. Take those observations home and have adults help you to identify the plant. There are many online resources for plant identification. A few are listed below.

<https://plants.usda.gov/java/>

<https://www.wildflower.org/plants/>



Prompt 13 – Squirrel for a Day

It is always good to get a different perspective on the world around you. Today you will be writing a story from the point of view of an animal. Pretend you are a squirrel living just outside your house. How would you see the world around you? What would be different for you? What would be the same? What does your home look like? What did you eat? Do you like being a squirrel? Draw and write about your experience as a squirrel. For some insight into the life of a squirrel, check out this video of a squirrel taking a gopro camera with him as he wandered through the trees.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Foi3Hblg21s>



Prompt 14 – Back Yard Map

When nature journaling, it is always important to understand the space you are utilizing. Today you will create a map of the area where you usually do your observations. This can be a back yard, patio, or park. The map does not have to be to scale, it is simply meant to show where different features are in relationship to each other. Be sure to label important features and add longer descriptions where they are needed. Once you have created your map, you can mark where you see interesting things in the future.



Resources

<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/free-preview-nature-journaling-and-field-sketching/>

<https://blog.prepscholar.com/contour-line-art>

<https://johnmuirlaws.com/resources/>

<https://www.plt.org/educator-tips/nature-journaling-ideas/>

<https://www.artinstructionblog.com/an-introduction-to-negative-drawing-with-mike-sibley>

<https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/NatureJournal.pdf>