



# Brevard County Libraries

We are shaking things up a bit with our  
Summer Reading Program 2021!

In this week's STEAM Packet, our theme is **Forests!** We will be exploring the wild areas of Brevard County as amateur naturalists! Create your own **Nature Journal** to document your journey and discoveries as we take you on a **Forest Scavenger Hunt!**

STEAM Packets can be picked-up at any branch within Brevard County and are available for curbside service.

All STEAM Packets are developed to be take-home based projects. Most supplies will not be provided by the library and will be listed only as 'Supplies Needed.'



Connect with us at:  
[Brevard Public Libraries](http://www.brev.org)

[www.brev.org](http://www.brev.org)

[Brevard Public Libraries on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BrevardCountyLibraries)  
[www.facebook.com/BrevardCountyLibraries](https://www.facebook.com/BrevardCountyLibraries)

Storytime, STEAM, Craft, and Teen Packets developed by the Youth Services Department

# Forests



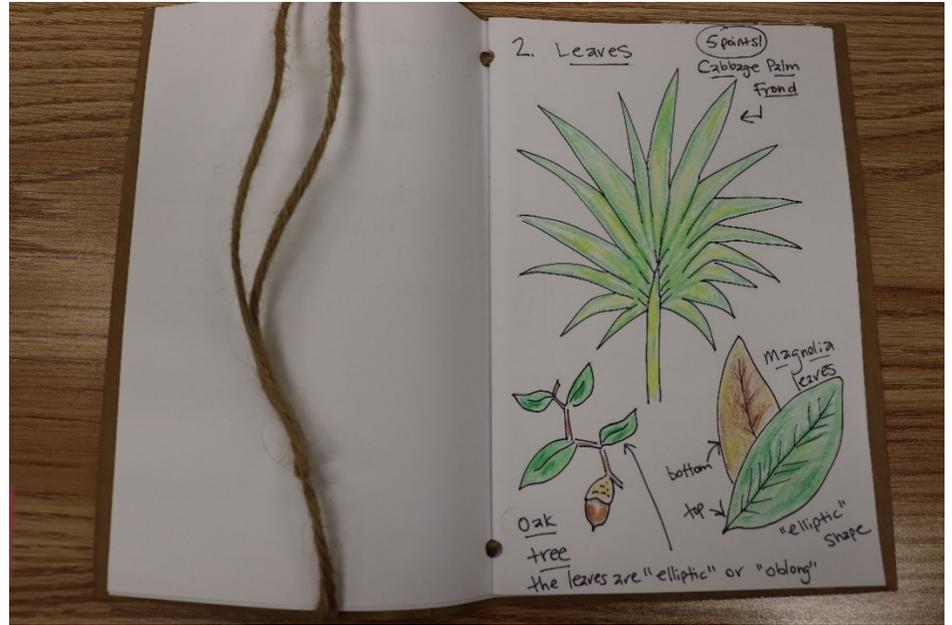
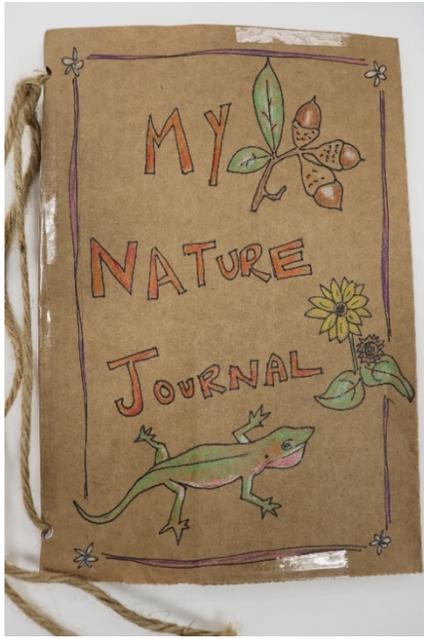
## Forests

Did you know that nearly half of Florida's land is covered by Forests?! Forests contain many trees and plant species. Forests provide important **habitat** (a place to live) for many types of animals. Forests also help the Earth by using up large amounts of **carbon dioxide** and releasing **oxygen** (a gas that humans and animals need to breathe). There are different types of forests found all over the world. Here in Brevard County, FL, our forests contain trees like: Pine species, Live Oak, Cabbage or Sabal Palm, and Saw Palmetto. Some plants that are fun to spot include: American Beautyberry, Wild Coffee, Shiny Blueberry, and many other species of shrubs, flowers, ferns, vines, moss, and lichen. All of the Forest trees and plants provide important food and shelter to a multitude of animal species, including birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and spiders.

## Suggested Reads: [Books available through Brevard County Libraries!](#)

- "Trees" by Allen J. Coombes (An identification guidebook)
- "Tell Me, Tree" by Gail Gibbons
- Series: "Petersons Field Guides for Young Naturalists" by Jonathan P. Latimer (Includes: "Songbirds," "Caterpillars," "Backyard Birds," and "Birds of Prey")
- Series: "National Geographic Kids Ultimate Explorer Field Guide" (Includes: "Birds," "Insects," "Trees," and "Reptiles & Amphibians")
- Series: "Young Naturalists Field Guide" (Includes: "Birds, Nests, and Eggs," "Trees, Leaves, and Bark," "Tracks, Scats, and Signs," and "Snakes, Salamanders, and Lizards")
- "Wild Animals: Field Guide and Drawing Book: Learn how to identify and draw wild animals from the great outdoors!"
- "Can You Hear the Trees Talking: Discovering the Hidden Life of the Forest" by Peter Wohlleben
- "The Ultimate Book of Scavenger Hunts: 42 Outdoor Adventures to Conquer with your Family" by Stacy Tornio
- "Forest Biomes Around the World" by M. M. Eboch
- "The Golden Glow" by Benjamin Flouw
- "Amelia Bedelia Hits the Trail" by Herman Parish

# Become a Naturalist: Create a Nature Journal



## Naturalists in the Forest

It's easy to become a **Naturalist** in the Forest or any outdoor space. A **Naturalist** uses their senses to observe and study nature.

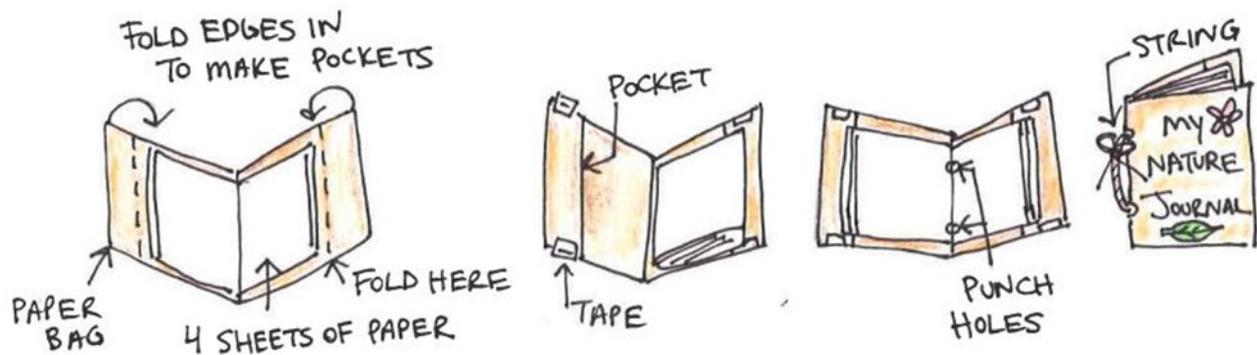
When we go into the forest and we look and listen closely, we can learn to describe what we find and even identify what things are! When we identify plants and animals, we can begin to learn interesting and exciting facts about them. An easy way to help us make observations is to write down the things we see. Drawing pictures helps us to see even more details. This is why many naturalists keep a **Nature Journal** - to record their observations and sketch what they see.

## Supplies Needed:

- 4 sheets of letter size paper (or more sheets if you want more pages in your journal)
- 1 Brown paper bag (or other thick paper to make a cover)
- Twine, yarn, or other thick string to create a binding
- Hole punch (If you don't have one, have someone help you make holes with scissors)
- Crayons, colored pencils, a pen, or a pencil to decorate the cover and record notes and drawings from your scavenger hunt.

## Directions:

1. Stack your 4 letter-size sheets of paper on top of each other and lay them so they are positioned longest left to right and shortest top to bottom. Then fold them in half left to right. Now you have the pages of your booklet.
2. Flatten your paper bag and cut it open to make a cover larger than your pages – stack your pages on top and leave about 3 inches extra to the left and right sides so you can make pockets. Leave just a bit extra on the top and bottom.
3. Fold the cover in half to cover your pages. Fold the sides in and tape them down to create cover pockets for your journal.



4. Punch two holes along the spine fold of all your papers, with each one about one inch from the top and bottom.
5. Thread your string through these holds on the inside of your book and tie the ends together snugly on the outside.
6. Title your Journal "My Nature Journal" and decorate however you like.
7. On the first page, write: Your name, where you will go on your scavenger hunt, and who you are going with.
8. Now you are ready to go on your scavenger hunt!! Fill your Journal with your observations and sketches just like a naturalist in the forest.

## Some Forest Rules before you head out:

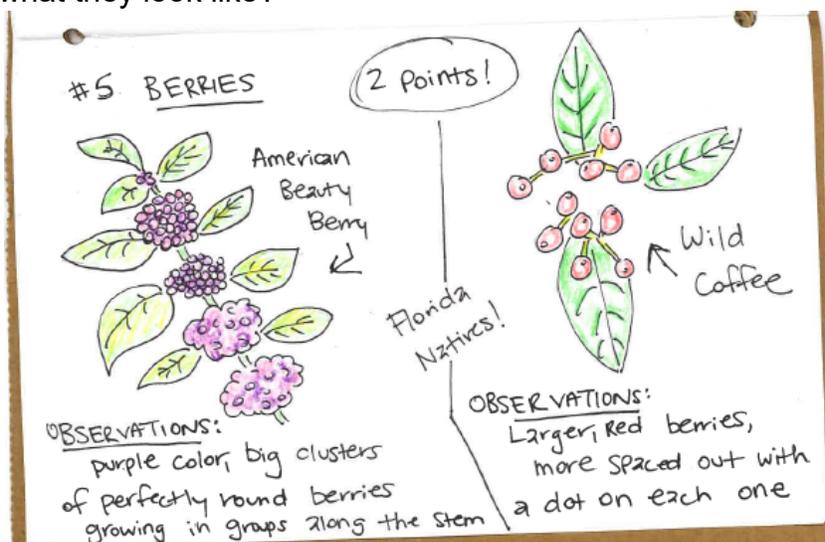
- Go with a trusted adult.
- Dress for the forest by wearing closed-toe shoes, pants and long sleeves to protect yourself from insects and brush.
- Watch out for **Poison Ivy!** Know how to identify it and NEVER touch it. It can give you a painful, itchy rash. Remember the saying: "**Leaves of three, let it be.**" Poison Ivy can grow on the ground or as a vine up the trunk of a tree.



- Some plants have poisonous parts, so don't put any plant parts in your mouth.
- Don't pick or take home any leaves, flowers, or anything else if you are in a protected park like **EEL (Environmentally Endangered Land) Sanctuaries** or National Parks.
- Visit: <https://www.brevardfl.gov/EELProgram/EELProgramFAQs> to learn about EEL parks in Brevard County, including the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary in Titusville.

# Let's Go on a Forest Scavenger Hunt – Can you get at least 24 points?

- FOREST SOUNDS (3 points):** Listen up! Being a naturalist means using many of your senses to explore nature. What do you hear when you listen quietly? Some examples are: birds calling, wood peckers pecking, squirrels chewing, or animals moving through the bushes.  
**In your Nature Journal:** Write down **three** different **Forest Sounds** and give yourself **one point** for each. Can you guess what might be making each sound?
- LEAVES (3 points + 2 BONUS points!)** Leaves come in all shapes and sizes - from a large spiny palm frond to a tiny smooth-edged Live Oak leaf. If you look at the **Glossary of Leaf Shapes** (located at the back of this booklet), you can see many leaf characteristics and the words used to describe them. These differences are clues that help us identify a plant using resources on the internet or a book called a **Field Guide**.  
**In Your Nature Journal:** Find three leaves that look different from each other. Draw each one in your notebook.  
**BONUS #1:** Can you find words from the **Glossary of Leaf Shapes** to describe your leaves?  
**BONUS #2:** Can you identify any of your leaves using a **Field Guide Book** or an internet resource?
- ANIMALS (3 points + 1 BONUS point!)** The forest is full of life. How many animals can you spot? Can you find these three common animals: Squirrel, Bird, and Lizard?  
**In Your Nature Journal:** Write down as many animals as you can spot.  
**BONUS:** Draw a picture of an animal in your nature journal!
- TREE NUTS (2 points):** An **Acorn** is a nut and it is the fruit of the Oak Tree. It contains the seed of the tree. When an acorn falls to the ground it can take root in the soil and grow a new tree. Acorns are also important food sources for animals like squirrels.  
**In Your Nature Journal:** Draw a picture of an **Acorn**. Can you find a different type of nut and draw a picture of that too?
- BERRIES (2 points):** Berries are another type of fruit found in the forest that contains seeds. They come in colors like: red, black, blue, purple, and white.  
**In Your Nature Journal:** Find **two** different colors of berries and draw a picture of each type in your journal, remember to color them in! Can you make some observations and describe what they look like?



6. **FLOWERS (3 points + 1 BONUS point!)**: Flowers are common to see along the forest path. They provide important food for pollinators like bees and butterflies.

**In Your Nature Journal:** Find three different flowers and draw them in your journal. List some observations about how they are different from each other, like color, size, shape, and petal arrangement.

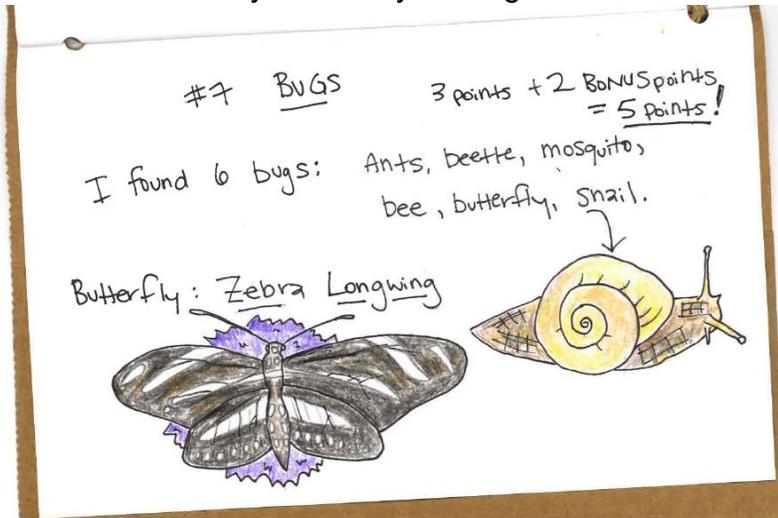
**BONUS:** Can you identify one of the flowers using an online resource or a **Field Guide**?

7. **BUGS (3 points + 2 BONUS points!)** The forest is crawling with bugs!! Ants, beetles, butterflies, and bees, just to name a few. How many different types can you spot?

**In Your Nature Journal:** Find three different types of bugs. Can you name them all?

**BONUS #1:** Can you spot a butterfly and draw it in your journal.

**BONUS #2:** Can you identify it using an online resource or a **Field Guide** book?



8. **AIR PLANTS (2 points)** Air plants are common in Florida Forests. They are called **epiphytes**, meaning that they get their water and nutrients from the air, rather than the soil. You will find them up in trees, or fallen on the ground. Some look like shoe strings, others look like the tops of pineapples. The **Spanish Moss** that hangs from trees is not actually a moss at all - it is another type of **air plant**.

**In Your Nature Journal:** See if you can spot two different types of **air plants**. Can you describe how the two are similar and different?

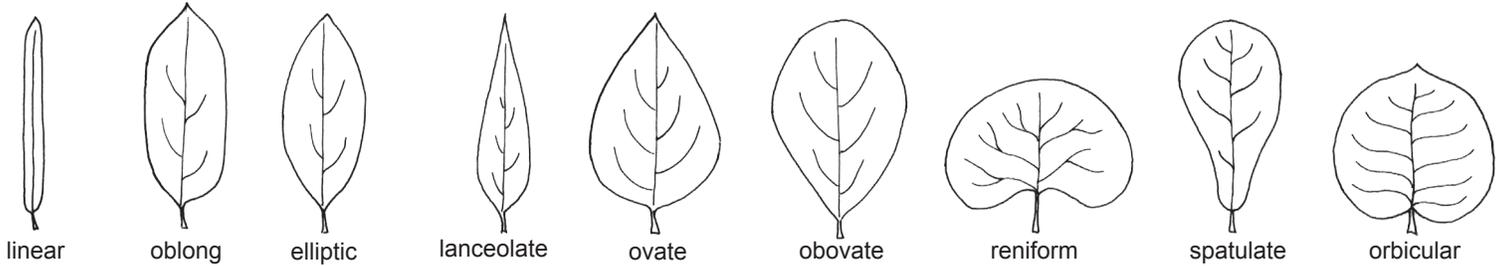


9. Find three other things that you find in a forest or in nature that are not on the list. Draw and/or describe them in your nature Journal. (3 Points)

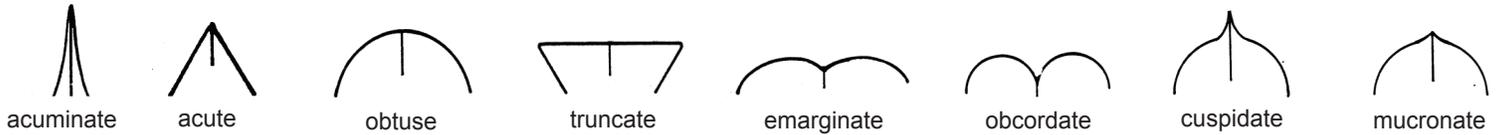
Add up all your points for your total score. If you completed everything, including the Bonus points, you should have 30 points!

# ILLUSTRATED GLOSSARY OF LEAF SHAPES

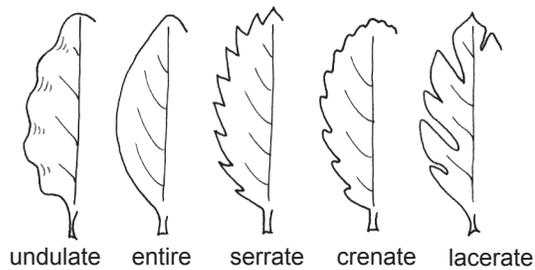
## LEAF SHAPES



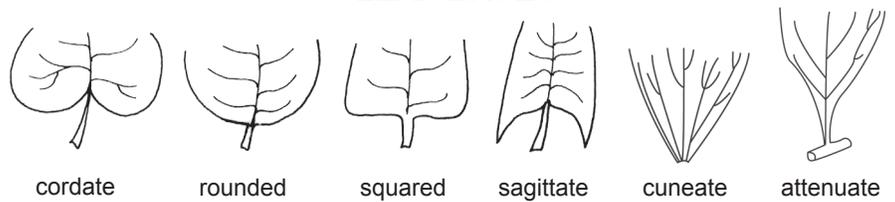
## LEAF TIPS



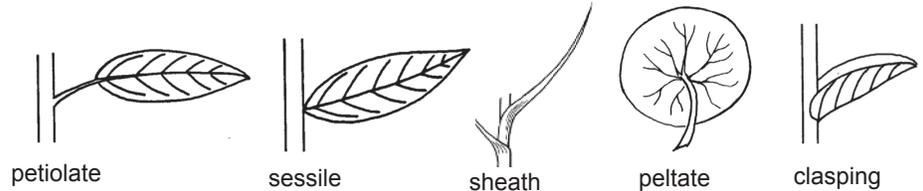
## LEAF MARGINS



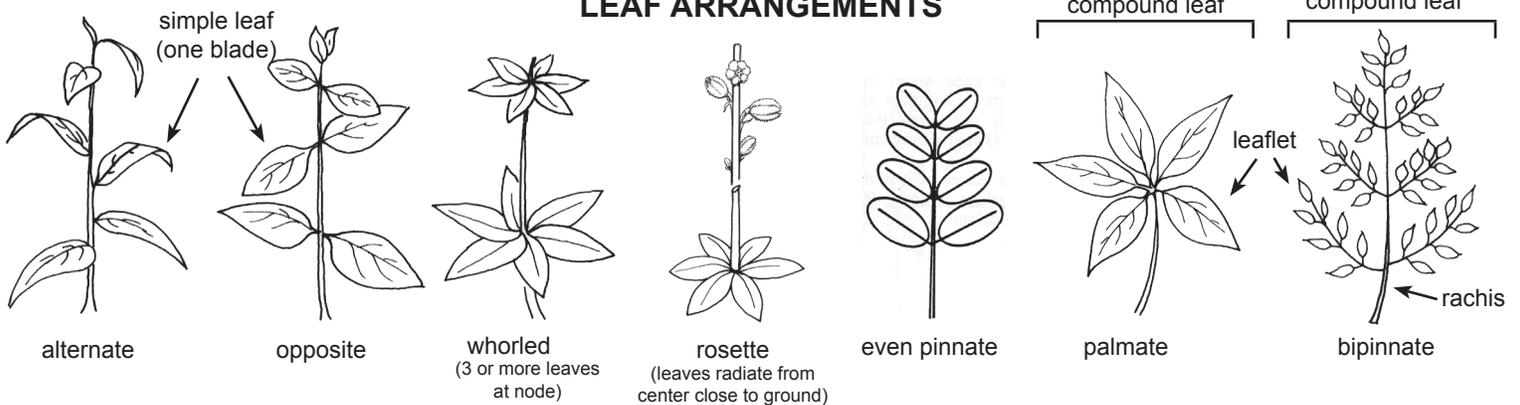
## LEAF BASES



## LEAF ATTACHMENTS



## LEAF ARRANGEMENTS



## HABIT

