WONDERS OF NATURE

WEEK 3 • DAY 5
**GREETING**

**ACTIVITY**
Greet your child with a warm “Good morning.” Take time to review what you did the day before and discuss how today is about the wonders of nature.

**LEARNING SKILLS**
Scientific exploration

**MATERIALS**
N/A

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**MORNING MEETING**

**ACTIVITY**
Talk about what a child can see in nature. Take an early morning walk to collect items such as rocks, sticks, leaves and flowers. Bring them home for use in Purposeful Exploration.

Talk about where the wonders of nature are found in the world. Have your child find the locations on a globe or map.

**LEARNING SKILLS**
Gross motor skill development, geography

**MATERIALS**
N/A

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**TRANSITION**

**ACTIVITY**
Pretend you are going to visit the wonders of nature and label each room in your home with one of them. Here is a sample list:

- Yellowstone National Park in WY
- Grand Canyon in AZ
- Table Mountain in Cape Town, South Africa
- Niagara Falls in NY and Canada
- Mosquito Bay in Puerto Rico
- Meteor Crater in AZ

Have your child hop to each location and imagine what it would be like at each. How would you traverse each place?

**LEARNING SKILLS**
Gross motor skill development, self-expression

**MATERIALS**
N/A
### PRE-EXPLORATION

**ACTIVITY**
Ask your child what wonder of nature he or she would like to visit. Make a list to revisit in Post Exploration. Explain how the Grand Canyon was built over years by the river cutting away at the rock as well as how erosion works.

Also, take a few of the items collected on the morning walk and add them to a box for Learning Lab.

**LEARNING SKILLS**
Geography

**MATERIALS**
N/A

### PURPOSEFUL EXPLORATION

**ACTIVITY**
Provide your child with pictures of the Grand Canyon. Provide him or her with play dough and a bucket and let your child build his or her own Grand Canyon. Remind your child to build a river at the bottom. Provide your child with water to add to his or her Grand Canyon.

Let your child take some of the items collected during the morning walk and make his or her own wonder of nature.

**LEARNING SKILLS**
Creativity, science, fine motor skill development

**MATERIALS**
Sticks, rocks, leaves, flowers, herbs, acorns, pine cones, pine needles, glue

### POST EXPLORATION

**ACTIVITY**
Provide your child with a journal to write a story about his or her wonder of nature or draw a picture.

**LEARNING SKILLS**
Reflection, prediction, fine motor skill development, writing skills

**MATERIALS**
Journal or paper, writing utensil
### MEALTIME

**ACTIVITY**  
During lunch, have your child explain his or her wonder of nature and discuss where it might be in the world and why.

**LEARNING SKILLS**  
Scientific exploration

**MATERIALS**  
N/A

### TRANSITION

**ACTIVITY**  
After lunch, let your child have a dance party before starting Learning Lab.

**LEARNING SKILLS**  
Gross motor skill development

**MATERIALS**  
N/A

### LEARNING LAB

**ACTIVITY**  
Take some of the items from the morning and place them in a box. Make a hole in the top of the box large enough for a child’s hand. Have your child guess the objects that are inside the box. Then he or she can check his or her answers.

**LEARNING SKILLS**  
Planning, organization, creativity, fine motor skill development

**MATERIALS**  
Cardboard box, natural items such as sticks, rocks, leaves, flowers, herbs
### OUTSIDE TIME

**ACTIVITY**  
When you go outside, take a clipboard and some plain white paper, and find various textures out in nature – tree bark, blades of grass, pine needles, pine cones, etc. Children can either sketch what they find or do a rubbing using crayons – place the object in between two pieces of paper and rub the crayon over the object.

**LEARNING SKILLS**  
Science, creativity

**MATERIALS**  
Paper, clipboard, crayons

### TRANSITION

**ACTIVITY**  
Turn on quiet nature music and have your child explain his or her feelings from the music and guess what sounds you’re hearing, for example, waterfall, ocean sounds or birds chirping.

**LEARNING SKILLS**  
Listening

**MATERIALS**  
N/A

### REST TIME

**ACTIVITY**  
Time to relax. Establish a routine before rest time that supports your child to calm his or her body and settle the mind.

**LEARNING SKILLS**  
N/A

**MATERIALS**  
N/A
### CHILD'S CHOICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>This may be a good time to do one thing your child wanted to do today. You can also do this activity anytime during the day.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEARNING SKILLS</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATERIALS</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</tbody>
</table>