

Week 1 Virtual Camp Sampler

(Ages 8-12)



**METROPARKS
TOLEDO**

MONDAY

Nature Journals: Anyone can be a nature “journalist.” Use the template below to make outdoor observations of what lives and grows in your yard, a park or a natural area where you can safely visit. Look at and listen to what is around you. When you listen, close your eyes and see if you hear more than you did when you were looking and listening at the same time. Sketch or make a simple drawing to remind you of what you saw. Add a few words to describe how you felt when you were outdoors.

MY NATURE JOURNAL

Date: _____ Time: _____ a.m. | p.m. Location: _____

Circle the weather: sunny cloudy rain snow wind Temperature: _____

Who is with me? _____

What do I hear? _____

What do I see? _____

Circle the coolest thing on my list.

Draw something seen today. (Use space on the right.)

Describe it: _____

I wonder: _____

How do I feel: _____

Take a closer look! Draw in more detail just one small part of your subject. Example: If you drew a tree then focus on just one leaf or stem. If you drew an animal focus on one part such as an eye, leg, feather, beak, eye, or antennae.

You can use the space remaining for a photo or to glue or tape a small field sample of something you found today. But only if you are in your own yard! Leave No Trace and do not collect at parks or other natural areas. Or maybe you can add a poem.

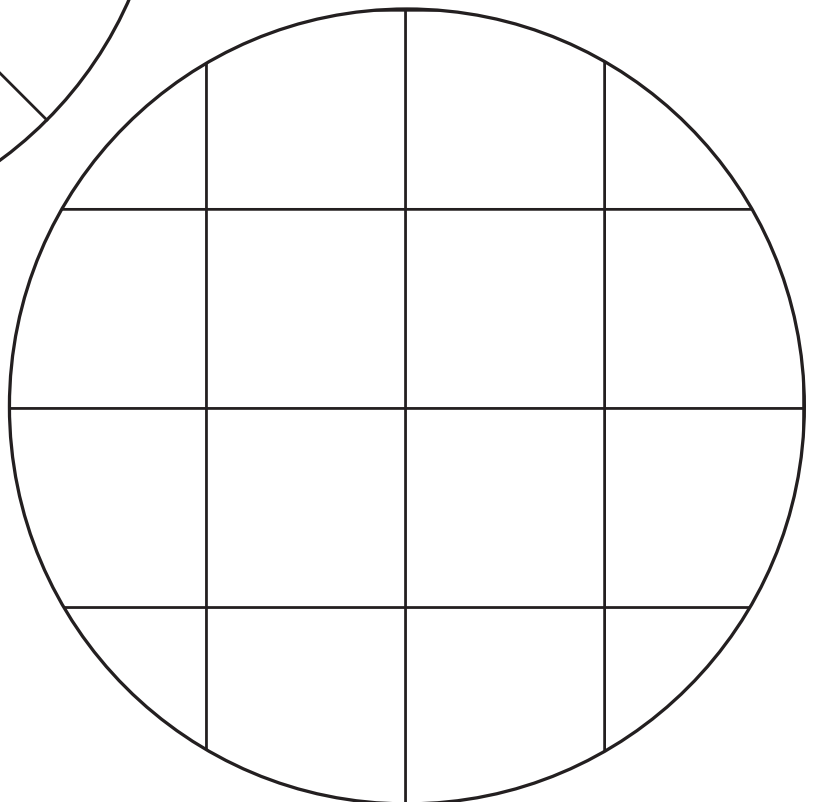
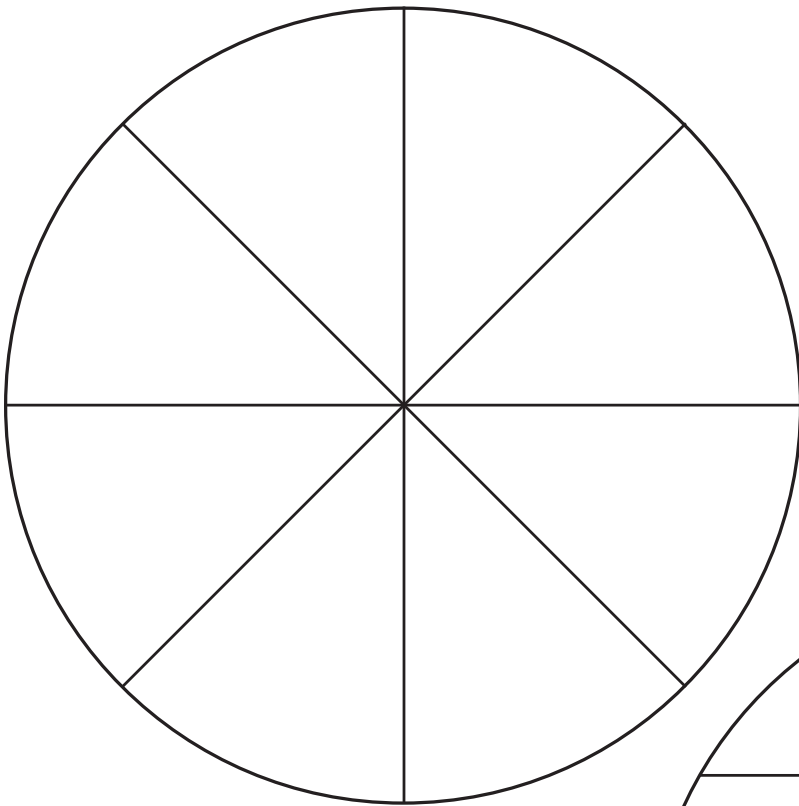
TUESDAY

The American Coot: If you've heard of the Toledo Mud Hens then there's a good chance you've wondered just what, exactly, a mud hen is. Well, wonder no more! The mud hen/marsh hen/swamp chicken are simply colloquial terms for the American Coot (*Fulica americana*). Grab a piece of paper, a few washable markers and a spray bottle with some water to follow along with the activity in the video.

URL: <https://youtu.be/gYGrPogRlh4>

WEDNESDAY

Wetland Puzzles: Natural ecosystems, such as wetlands, are very complex. It becomes difficult to restore them when they become altered due to human activities (i.e. pollution or development). Use either template below to simulate a restoration project. Find a picture in a magazine or print one off from online that shows a habitat. Glue or tape the picture onto one of the patterns below and then cut along all the lines. Place the puzzle facedown (so you can't see the picture) and try and put it back together in the correct order. How did you do? How do you think this applies to real life examples when restoring natural areas?

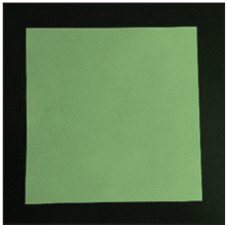


THURSDAY

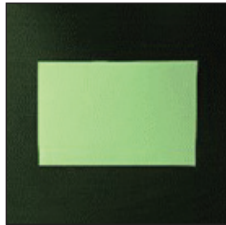
Seed Dispersal: Plants use differing methods to spread their seeds to make future generations of plants. Plants spread their seeds away from the parent plant and other seeds so that each young new plant has enough space and resources (such as water and light) to grow. Water is one method of dispersal. Seeds are made to be buoyant and float on rivers or other bodies of water to distant locations. One example is the American Bladdernut Tree.

ORIGAMI BLADDERNUT - WATER DISPERSAL

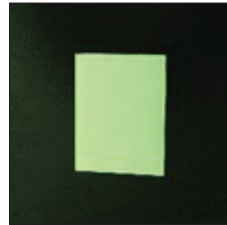
Use one sheet of the included 6in x 6in colored origami paper on a flat surface and follow the instructions below to create an origami Bladdernut.



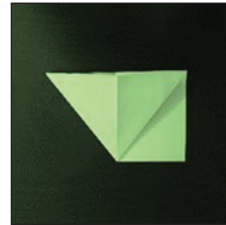
6in x 6in paper.



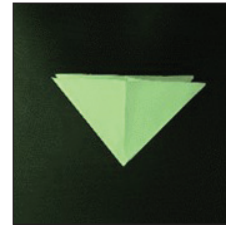
Fold in half.



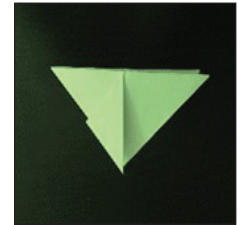
Fold in half again.



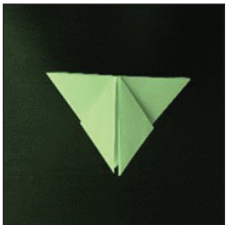
Bring bottom right corner up to meet the current top left corner to create a triangle.



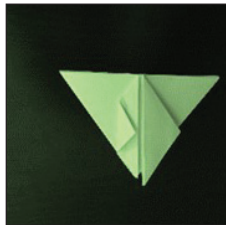
Flip over and do the same with the other side.



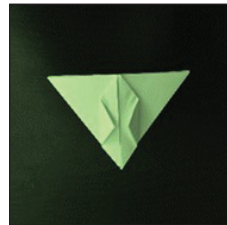
Fold top left corner down to meet the bottom right corner.



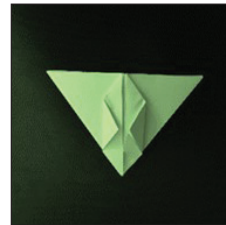
Fold the top right corner down to meet the bottom left corner.



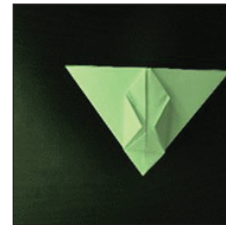
Fold tip of left triangle in.



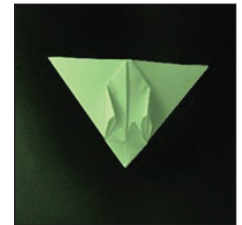
Fold tip of right triangle in.



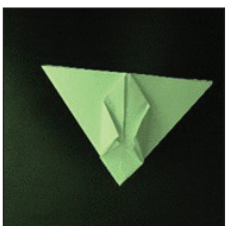
Fold bottom left up.



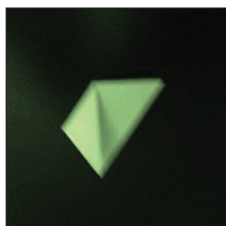
Fold bottom right up.



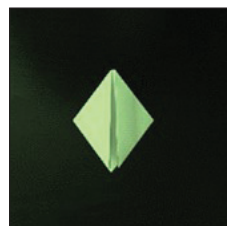
Tuck bottom flaps into pockets.



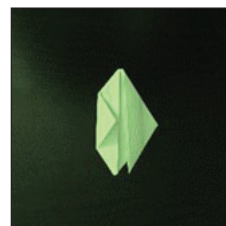
Flip paper over.



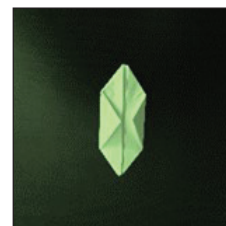
Fold top left corner in.



Fold top right corner in.



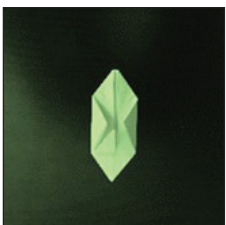
Fold tip of left triangle in.



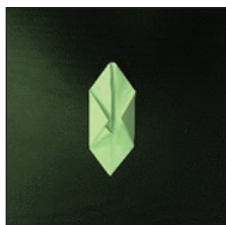
Fold tip of right triangle in.



Fold bottom left up.



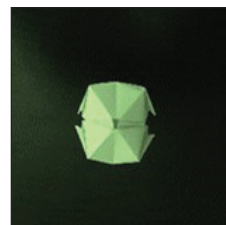
Fold bottom right up.



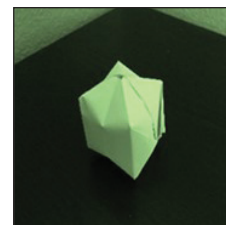
Tuck bottom flaps into pockets.



Press down final fold.



Locate the opening on one end of the origami peace.



Blow up and inflate to finish your origami bladdernut!

FRIDAY

Metroparks Maze: The Great Blue Heron is hungry! Complete the maze so he can find his meal.

