

# NATURE QUEST

Nature Quest challenges kids of all ages to be curious about nature, right here in southeast Indiana. Take this sheet to a nature preserve, park, or wildlife refuge. Complete each part of the grid below. We'll release new Nature Quest challenges throughout the season. Complete all eight challenges, and you can enter to win the Grand Prize!

**Materials you might take along:**

- Pencil and/or colored pencils
- Books or field guides from the "Library Thing" list for this challenge
- A notebook for more observations
- Clear jar

**Tip: A good park for this Nature Quest is Krueger Lake County Park near Madison, or Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge near Seymour. You could also do this challenge at any park with a lake or pond.**

<p>Sit quietly at the pond's edge. Use all your senses. Write or draw what you observe.</p>	<p>Walk around the edge of the pond and look for life. Notice what is on the edge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rocks or gravel</li> <li>• Mud</li> <li>• Sand</li> <li>• Plants</li> </ul>	<p>Look for animal or bird tracks in the mud on the edge of the pond. Draw the tracks here, and look up who made the tracks when you get home.</p>
<p>Observe an insect with wings. How many wings does it have? Draw the insect here:</p>	<h2>POND LIFE</h2>	<p>Did you see anything moving in the water? Does it swim, crawl, or fly? Draw it here:</p>
<p>Scoop some water out of the pond into a clear jar. Look for these, and draw what you see!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living plants</li> <li>• Insects</li> <li>• Fish</li> <li>• Other?</li> </ul>	<p>Did you see any ducks or geese? They are very dependent on wetlands. If you are a student who likes sketching you can enter the Jr. Duck Stamp Contest by drawing a native duck, goose, or swan. Details can be found at <a href="https://www.fws.gov/juniorduck">https://www.fws.gov/juniorduck</a> or by emailing <a href="mailto:Muscatatuck@fws.gov">Muscatatuck@fws.gov</a></p>	<p>What animals have you seen or heard while you were here? List the critters at the pond today:</p>

Find more Nature Quest challenges, and enter to win the Grand Prize, at [www.oakheritageconservancy.org/nature-quest](http://www.oakheritageconservancy.org/nature-quest)

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**Jefferson County Parks**

