

# 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:**

- Scratch paper and a piece of chalk or a crayon
- Pencil and/or colored pencils
- A notebook for your drawings.
- Books or field guides from the "Library Thing" list for this challenge

**Tip: This Nature Challenge can be done at almost any nature preserve or park. Visit an old favorite to get to know its trees, or: Why not explore someplace new? Use the Oak Heritage Conservancy "Park Finder" to look for a new natural areas near you.**

<p>Trees that lose their leaves each fall are called "Deciduous." Do you see any trees that are losing their leaves? Find four different types of Deciduous tree leaves and draw or photograph them. What's different about the leaves? What's the same?</p>	<p>Find a tree with needles. How many needles are in each "bundle" - two? three? more? Take the needles home and look up what the tree is called. Describe the tree (or draw it!) in case that has any other clues for your search.</p>	<p>Pick two very different trees. Draw or write about what makes them different. You might think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How big around are their trunks? How big are their canopies (the top part)?</li> <li>• What do their leaves look like?</li> <li>• What animals call them home?</li> <li>• Where are they growing?</li> </ul>
<p>Find a leaf that you like on the ground. Trace around the outside of the leaf's edges. Now write down a few words about how it feels to spend time outside exploring. You could even try writing a three-line poem, like a haiku.</p>	 <p>TREES!</p>	<p>Do you see any animals in the trees? Watch for one minute in silence. What are the animals doing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making a nest or home.</li> <li>• Looking for food.</li> <li>• Playing.</li> <li>• Singing or calling.</li> <li>• Jumping from branch to branch.</li> <li>• Something else?</li> </ul>
<p>Pick a tree with bark that you like. Draw or write about its texture (scaly? smooth? ridged? etc.), any shapes the bark makes, and what color it is.</p>	<p>One way to tell trees apart is by their bark. Hold a sheet of paper up to the bark. Gently rub the flat side of a crayon or piece of chalk on the paper until the bark's pattern shows. Try this on a few trees and see which bark rubbing is your favorite!</p>	<p>Many oak trees are shedding their acorns this time of year. Can you find any on the ground? Draw what you find. Look closely at the details!</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)

Brought to you by:



*Big Oaks Conservation Society*

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