



Mush-Mush & the Mushables

Nature Detective Activities



Mush Mush and his friends love to explore the world around them. Living in the forest, they encounter all kinds of nature everyday – eggs hatching, trees growing, spiders weaving webs, and more! Mush Mush and the Mushables gets kids (and Mushies) excited to explore and celebrate nature.

LEARNING BENEFIT: EXPLORING NATURE HELPS YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

Just like kids need healthy nutrition and a good night's sleep, they also need to go outside and explore nature! According to journalist, author and nature lover, Richard Louv, time in nature can....

- boost kids' mental acuity and creativity
- help kids build confidence, calm and focus
- reduce obesity and depression in children
- promote kids' health and wellness,
- be totally and incredibly FUN! (but you knew that!)

ACTIVITY: BE A NATURE DETECTIVE!

There is an endless supply of things to explore outside. This activity will help your little mushie focus on and observe nature as well as learn new things about the world around them! All you gotta do is...

- 1 PICK!** Look at the four Nature Detective discovery sheets: Trees, Birds, Insects, and Plants. Choose which one you and your mushie want to do and take a screenshot of it on your phone.
- 2 PACK!** Fill a bag with things you want to take on your nature adventure – water, a notebook or sketchbook, some pencils/crayons/markers, some trail mix (very naturey!), a magnifying glass (very detectivey), and whatever else you want.
- 3 GO!** Go outside to any green space nearby -- a backyard, park, community garden, nature center, playground or even a sidewalk with trees.
- 4 EXPLORE!** Encourage your Nature Detective to find something related to the chosen theme. If you choose trees, have your mushie look for a tree and explore it with their eyes, ears, nose, and fingers. Use the sample observation questions on your Nature Detective discovery sheet or come up with your own Qs!
- 5 REPORT!** Help your Nature Detective write about something amazing that they discovered on your adventure! Have them draw a picture too!
- 6 REPEAT!** One of the awesome things about nature is that it's always changing. Continue going back to the same spot and discuss with your Nature Detective how things have changed.



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BE A NATURE DETECTIVE AND EXPLORE...TREES!

DID YOU KNOW?

The roots help trees stay alive! They provide water and 'food' to the trees. Look for a root (or two, or three)!



SUPER IMPORTANT NATURE DETECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT TREES:

- Do you see a tree? What color is it? Is it big or little?
- Can you see more than one type of tree? If so, how are the trees different? How are they the same?
- How does the tree feel? (Touch it!) Is it rough or smooth? Hard or soft? Wet or dry?
- Do different parts of the tree feel different ways?
- Does the tree have a smell? (Take a sniff!) Does the smell remind you of something?
- Does the tree ever change? When? How?



Help your little mushie write down their super awesome tree discoveries, and encourage them to draw a tree picture too!





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BE A NATURE DETECTIVE AND EXPLORE... BIRDS

DID YOU KNOW?

Birds are great communicators. They chirp and sing for many different reasons, like trying to make a friend and warning other birds of danger. Can you hear a bird chirping or singing? Can you chirp like a bird? Go ahead and do it! (Chirp chirp!)

SUPER IMPORTANT NATURE DETECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT BIRDS:

- Do you see a bird? What color is it? Is it big or little?
- Can you see different types of birds? If so, how are they different? How are they the same?
- Does the bird you see make a noise? What does it sound like?
- What activities do you see the bird doing?
- When birds get together, it's called a flock. Can you find a flock of birds? Look all around you!

Help your little mushie write down their super awesome bird discoveries, and encourage them to draw a bird picture too!





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BE A NATURE DETECTIVE AND EXPLORE... INSECTS

DID YOU KNOW?



All adult insects have three body parts: head, thorax, abdomen. Can you find an insect and count its three parts? 1, 2, 3...

SUPER IMPORTANT NATURE DETECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT INSECTS:

- Do you see an insect? What color is it? Is it big or little?
- Where is the insect - in the air, on the ground, in a tree?
- Can you see different types of insects? If so, how are they different? How are they similar?
- Does the insect you see make a noise? What does it sound like? Can you make that sound? (Go ahead, try!)
- Does the insect you see ever change? When? How?
- Is the insect alone or with other living things?

Help your little mushie write down their super awesome insect discoveries, and encourage them to draw an insect picture too!





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BE A NATURE DETECTIVE AND EXPLORE... PLANTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Plants release oxygen from their leaves. Humans and animals breathe in that oxygen so we can be alive. For real, we need plants to live! Find a plant and say thank you! (Go on, say it!)



SUPER IMPORTANT NATURE DETECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT PLANTS:

- Do you see a plant? What color is it? Is it big or little?
- How many different kinds of plants can you find? How are they different? How are they similar?
- Does the plant look rough or smooth? Hard or soft? Wet or dry?
- Does the plant have a smell? (Take a sniff!) Does the smell remind you of something? Does it smell good or bad?
- Does the plant ever change? When? How?
- Are there any insects on the plant? Which ones?

Help your little mushie write down their super awesome plant discoveries, and encourage them to draw a plant picture too!