

READING ROOM

The Nature Connection: An Outdoor Workbook for Kids, Families, and Classrooms

By Clare Walker Leslie

Copyright: 2010

Publisher: Storey Publishing

(www.storey.com)

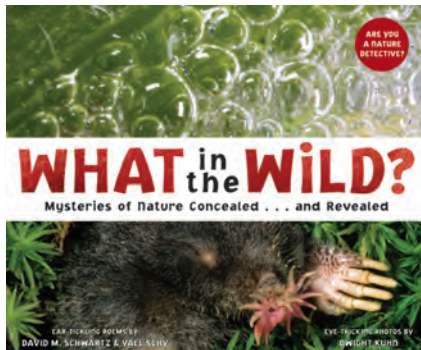
Suggested Ages: 8-12

Nature Detectives Wanted! Looking for ways to engage youth in the outdoors? From the opening chapter on “How to Be a Naturalist” to month-by-month exploration guides, this book encourages kids to get outside and document what they find. The book includes lots of worksheets and sketch pages, and author Clare Walker Leslie also gives tips on drawing plants and animals. But this book is not just about quiet time: Walker Leslie



encourages exploration and active play and provides ideas for nature projects. The language and illustrations — all done by Walker Leslie herself — are very engaging and kid-friendly.

Although the recommended ages for this book are 8-12 years, younger kids could do many of these activities with adult help (even adults will enjoy them!). Download extra copies of the book's worksheets at www.storey.com/thenatureconnection.php.



What in the Wild? Mysteries of Nature Concealed . . . and Revealed

By David Schwartz and Yael Schy

Photographs by Dwight Kuhn

Copyright: 2010

Publisher: Tricycle Press

(www.randomhouse.com/kids)

Suggested Ages: 4-8

“The woods, fields, marshes, rivers, ponds deserts, farms, and other places are alive with brain teasers waiting to be solved. Welcome to a world of wonder.” Kid-friendly poems and mystery photos combine to engage kids in exploring wildlife. Lift the flap to see who is hiding in the leafy lair or cliff dwelling. Kids will also find amazing nature photos and details on the lives of animals ranging from antlions to a star-nosed mole. More than simply a collection of nature photos, the book delves into the lives of its animal subjects — from how earthworms fertilize the ground to what's left over after an owl's dinner.

A Guide to Canning, Freezing, Curing & Smoking Meat, Fish & Game

By Wilbur F. Eastman, Jr.

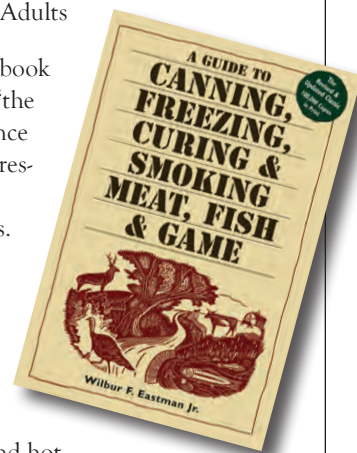
Copyright: 2002

Publisher: Storey Publishing

(www.storey.com)

Suggested Ages: Adults

This no-frills book is advertised as “the definitive reference on home meat preservation,” and it certainly delivers. The chapter on canning meats, for example, walks the reader through pressure canners, raw-pack and hot-pack methods of canning, how to process and pack jars, and checking jar seals. A chapter on curing includes not only how-to tips but the pros and cons of using nitrates to preserve meats. The section on game includes diagrams on how to field dress a deer and tips such as waiting to trim fat until after the meat ages because the fat protects the meat during that process. The chapter on fish offers four ways to freeze fish and tips on curing, pickling, and smoking. Experienced hunters and anglers as well as beginners will get a lot out of this book. It was originally published in 1972 but has updated to include new preservation methods and safety information.



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