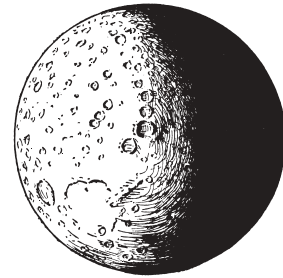
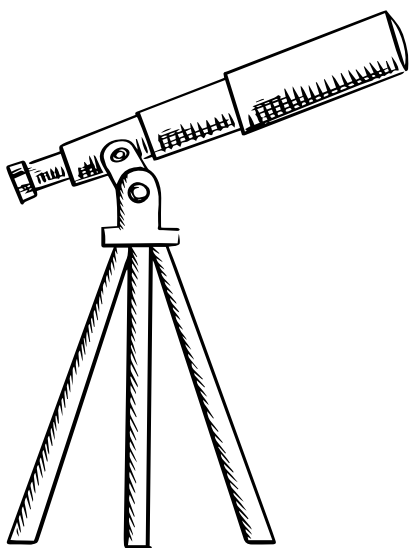


NATURE STUDY HACKING

HOW TO GET OUTSIDE AND USE A NATURE JOURNAL



STARS & SKIES



JOY CHERRICK

NATURESTUDYHACKING.COM

Introduction to Nature Study	3
Nature Journal Prompts	19
How to Use This Book	21
Moon's Phases Phenology Wheel Lesson 1	24
Moon's Phases Vocabulary Lesson 2	26
Moon's Phases Demonstration Lesson 3	27
Moon Poem Lesson 4	29
Moon Poem Continued Lesson 5	30
Moon - Reading Lesson 6	31
Review, Improve & Delight Lesson 7	32
Moon Phenology Wheel Lesson 8	34
Big Dipper and Little Dipper - Story Lesson 9	35
Big Dipper and Little Dipper - Drawing Lesson 10	36
Review, Improve & Delight Lesson 11	38
Cassiopeia's Chair - Story Lesson 12	39
Cassiopeia's Chair - Drawing Lesson 13	40
Perpetual Journal Entry Lesson 14	42
Orion - Story Lesson 15	43
Orion - Drawing Lesson 16	44
Stars Poem Lesson 17	46
Planets - Drawing Lesson 18	47
Review, Improve & Delight Lesson 19	49
Sun Makes a Shadow Lesson 20	50
Sun Makes a Shadow Continued Lesson 21	51
Sun Makes the Seasons Lesson 22	52
Perpetual Journal Entry Lesson 23	54
Review, Improve & Delight Lesson 24	55
STARS & SKIES Exam Week	56
Poems about Stars & Skies	57

How to Use This Book

Nature Study Hacking is designed to help you guide your student through the art of studying nature and keeping a Nature Journal. These principles are old, but this application is new. The ideas from Anna Comstock's classic book *Handbook of Nature Study* are combined with the ideas of modern naturalists and educators such as Clare Walker Leslie, Charles E. Roth, Cindy Rollins and Jeannette Tulis.

The lessons are designed to be short. They begin with observation. In observing nature first-hand, we begin to develop a relationship with it that can't be duplicated. This is because we are able to engage the totality of our five senses and get to know a thing in its home. I know that when I have friends over to my home they are able to know and understand me more fully. This is the same with nature.

Diagrams are used to show or label to help teach us to call nature by name. When we know the name of something we, once again, develop a closer relationship with it. *We know* it. The lessons use copywork in order to help us remember and to know. This should be a delight and a means to the greater end of learning about nature.

With care, I've woven in a variety of types of Nature Journal entries into this book. Copywork, vocabulary, writing, math, map-making, research, reading and more are incorporated so that as you study your chosen topic, you can also explore it on a variety of levels. In addition, keeping a Nature Journal is not just about painting beautiful watercolor paintings. You will enjoy learning about many different types of entries as you go through our study together! I've designed the lessons with the aim of two lessons each week over a twelve week term. However, you can do as many or as few as you'd like. My goal is to help you establish the habit of using a Nature Journal. This book is the support to help you achieve this. It's designed to serve families first and foremost.

Lastly, throughout the study you will enjoy a few "breathing lessons." I've titled them "Review, Improve & Delight." These help us and our students to take the time and care to go back over our work and add to it, clean it up and make it better. The habit of taking the time to carefully improve our work can help us not only review what we have done, but also help us enjoy what we've done and find ways to improve it.

We'd love to hear about how you are nature study hacking! Please use #naturestudyhacking on social media if you are enjoying your booklet! Please contact us at www.naturestudyhacking.com with questions, give fives and any ideas for improving this valuable resource for families beginning their own Nature Study Hacking journey!

Setting up Your Nature Journal

Nature Study Hacking means that there are tricks and tips to share with you to make your life simpler!

Before you begin studying and journaling you will first need to set up your journal. Be sure to use a pencil and have your eraser handy when you first start laying out your pages so that you can erase markings easily. This is YOUR notebook, you are going to be working little by little to add to it just how you'd like. If you'd rather draw or paint something on a separate sheet of paper, cut it out and paste it into your notebook, you are welcome to do that. If you'd like to write directly into your notebook, that works as well! Just remember we are all learning a NEW way to use our Nature Journals, so mistakes are part of the learning process!

Here's your supply list:

1. Nature
2. [Sketchbook or Dot grid notebook](#) (This is my favorite one)
3. [A pencil and an eraser](#)
4. [Colored pencils](#) (preferred for younger children)
5. Preprinted Phenology wheel sliced into 12 pie pieces for each month of the year (see Appendix)
6. Scissors
7. Tape or glue
8. [Protractor](#) (optional if making Phenology wheel instead of printing it off)
9. Field Guide
10. Book about the Moon, Stars, Planets and Seasons (See Resources page for recommended readings)
11. Night Sky App (point at the sky and it tells you what star/planet/constellation you are observing!)

Step 1: Now that you have your supplies, open your Nature Journal. The first page on the right of most books is called the "Title Page". This is where you will write your name, your age and "Nature Journal" - that's the Title of your book! Make sure your writing is neat and clean so that others can read it.

Step 2: Pages 1 and 2 come after the Title Page. This is called a "spread" because there are two pages "spread" together. Glue, tape or draw your Phenology wheel with 32 pie pieces onto one page of the spread. You will use this page each day to track the phases of the moon! Write in the dates of the month above the pie pieces. Please keep this page tidy (no doodling) so that your observations can be clearly notated. Now, paste your Phenology wheel on one of these pages. You pick which one! (On the other page you can use *Nature Study Hacking - Trees* guide to learn how to track trees through the year!)

Step 3: Flip to the back of your book. Starting with the last spread and working backwards (toward the front of your book), write the months of the year. I like to start with December, November etc and working my way into the center of the book until I come to January. This creates a "Perpetual Journal" where you can make entries about what you encounter during that month. You will be able to add a little bit to these pages over time. These entries can be about anything you find in nature and want to record into your Nature Journal (even if you aren't studying that topic!)

**SIMPLE
LESSONS
START HERE**

Moon's Phases Phenology Wheel| Lesson 1

Supply list:

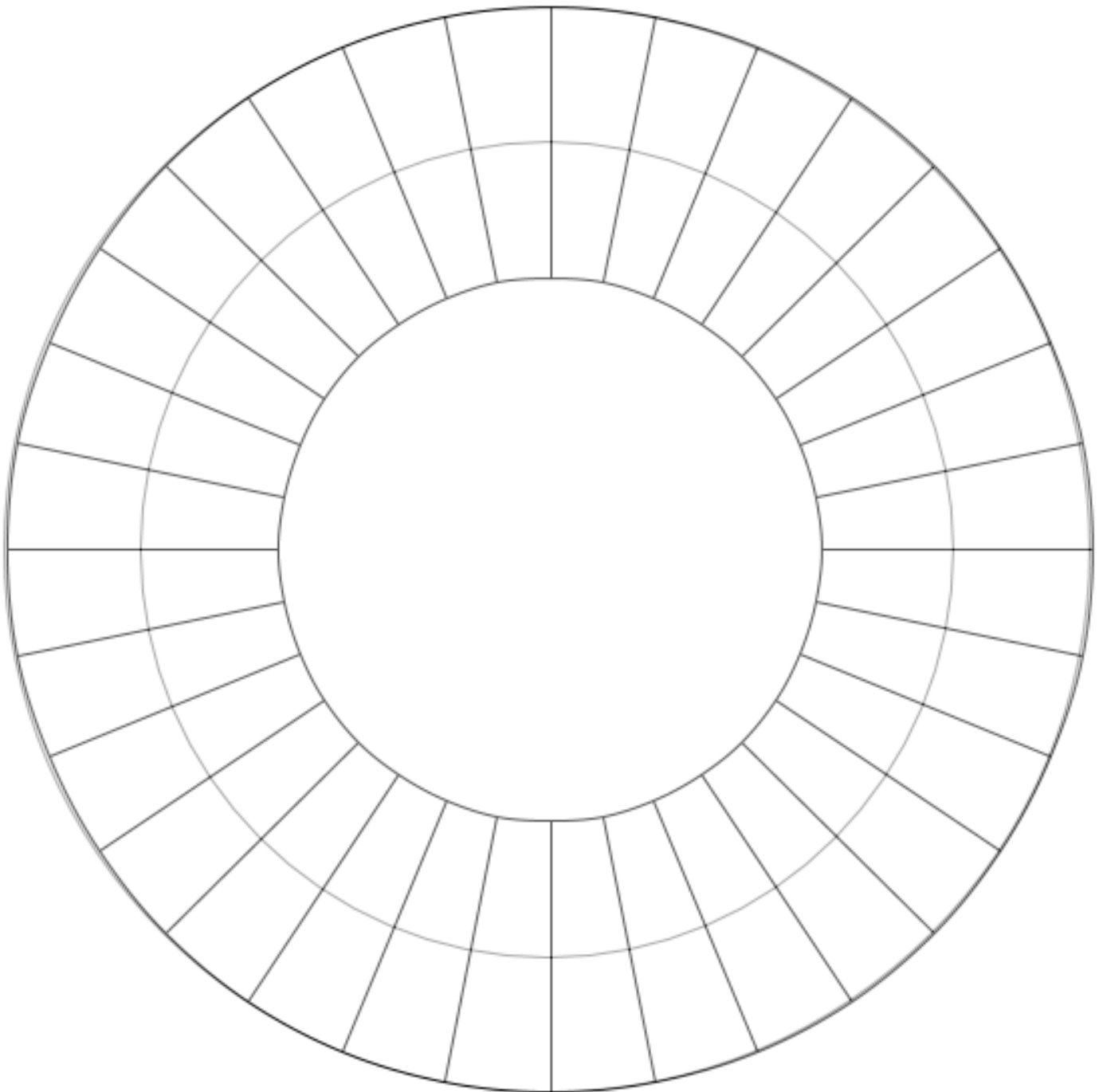
1. A New Moon (preferred)
2. Nature Journal
3. Pencil and eraser
4. Preprinted Moon Phenology wheel (See the following page) sliced into 30 pie pieces for each month of the year (this is to track the moon this month)
5. Scissors
6. Tape or glue (to secure the Moon Phenology Wheel into your Nature Notebook) (unless you choose to draw one using a protractor, then you'll need a protractor!)

Step 1: In the front of your Natural Journal on the first two page spread paste/glue the Moon Phenology wheel to track the moon. The moon takes an average of 29.53 days to go through all of its phases. You will track the moon **everyday** (or as close to everyday as possible) for one month!

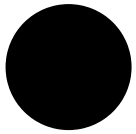
Step 2: On your Moon Phenology Wheel, draw the shape of the moon as it is today. Can you see it in the sky? If it's too cloudy to see, you'll need to use another source to make your recording for today. What can you use to find out what phase the moon is in today? Record the phase the moon is in and what the weather was like i.e. cloudy, rainy, snowy, sunny, partly cloudy etc. You may draw a picture if you'd prefer.

Note: Go to this website for phases of the moon: https://www.calendar-12.com/moon_calendar/

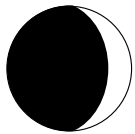
Moon Phases Phenology Wheel



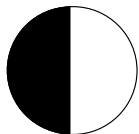
Phases of the Moon



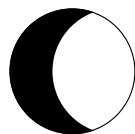
New
Moon



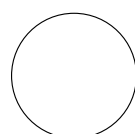
Waxing
Crescent



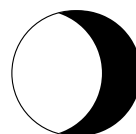
First
Quarter



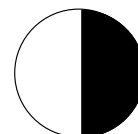
Waxing
Gibbous



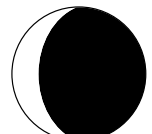
Full
Moon



Waning
Gibbous



Third
Quarter



Waning
Crescent

Moon Phenology Wheel| Lesson 8

Supply List:

1. Nature Journal
2. Pencil and eraser
3. Pen (optional)

Step 1: On your Moon Phenology Wheel, draw the shape of the moon as it is today. Record today's date along with the phase the moon is in and what the weather was like i.e. cloudy, rainy, snowy, sunny, partly cloudy etc. You may draw a picture if you'd prefer.

Step 2: If you've already drawn your phases of the moon in pencil, now you may outline the phases of the moon in pen. Fill in any days you may have missed in observing this month's phases of the moon.

Note: Go to this website for phases of the moon from the current month:

https://www.calendar-12.com/moon_calendar/

STARS & SKIES| Exam Week

Supply List:

1. Nature Journal
2. Pencils and eraser

Step 1: Look through your Nature Journal you created this year. Look at the pages where you recorded the phases of the moon, the constellations you discovered and the sun's relationship to the earth. Spend about 5-10 minutes.

Step 2: Tell your parent about the moon, stars or sun. You may use your Nature Journal to demonstrate and show examples of what you remember. Be sure to include the most interesting thing that you learned.

(Note to parent: you may choose to write down what your child says or record their narration on video.)

About the Author

Joy Cherrick is wife to her entrepreneurial husband, Kevin, and is mother and home educator to their six children. She classically homeschools her children using the Charlotte Mason method. Joy loves learning new things, being a supportive friend and being outside. She can usually be found at home, her favorite place to work and rest. You can find her online at litandlilies.com.

Books in the Nature Study Hacking Series

Nature Study Hacking - Trees

Nature Study Hacking - Stars & Skies

Nature Study Hacking - Insects

Coming Soon...

Nature Study Hacking - Plants

Nature Study Hacking - Weather

Nature Study Hacking - Mammals

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