

Nature Study Hacking
Trees

Created by Joy Cherrick

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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 we have tricks and tips to share with you to make your life simpler!

Before we begin studying and journaling we need to make sure that we have our journals all set up. 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 drawing 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. [Sketchbook or Dot grid notebook](#) (8.5/11 size preferred for younger children)
2. [A pencil and an eraser](#)
3. [Colored pencils](#) (preferred for younger children)
4. Preprinted Phenology wheel sliced into 12 pie pieces for each month of the year (see Appendix)
5. Scissors
6. Tape or glue
7. [Protractor](#) (optional if making Phenology wheel instead of printing it off)
8. Nature
9. Field Guide

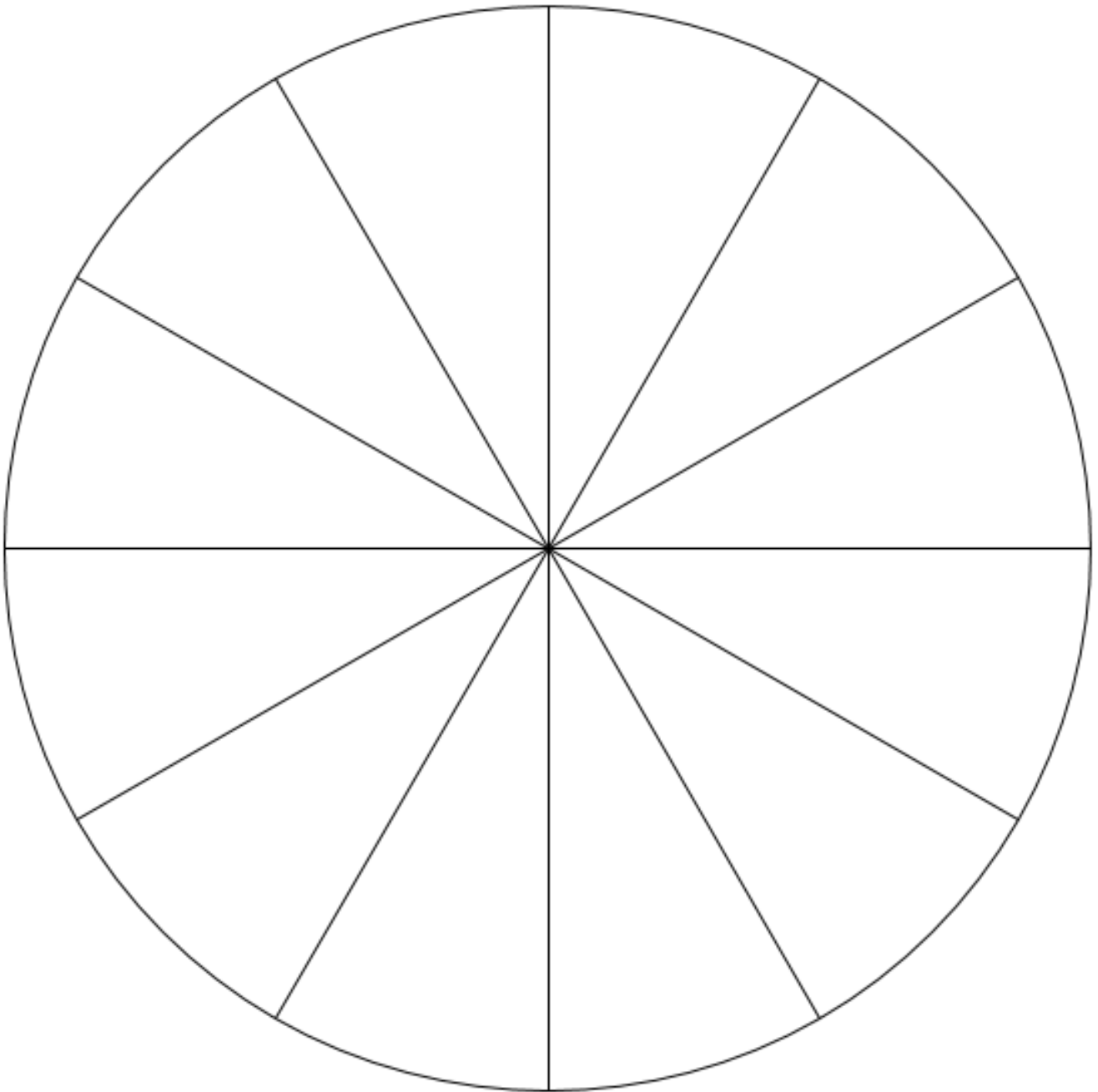
Step 1: Now that you have your supplies, open your Nature Journal. The first page on the right of most books is called the "Title Page". This is where you will write your name, your age and "Nature Journal" - that's the Title of your book! Make sure your writing is neat and clean so that others can read 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 12 pie pieces onto one page of the spread. You will use this page once each month to record what your tree looks like throughout the whole year! Write the 12 months above the different 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!

Step 3: Flip to the back of your book. Starting with the last spread (two pages together) 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

Tree Tracking Phenology Wheel



Choose a Tree Observe| Lesson 1

Supply List:

1. Nature Journal
2. Pencil and eraser
3. Colored Pencils or Watercolor Paints
4. Your tree

Step 1: Choose a tree to observe for the next year. It's best if it's close to your home or school so that you will see it daily (or almost daily).

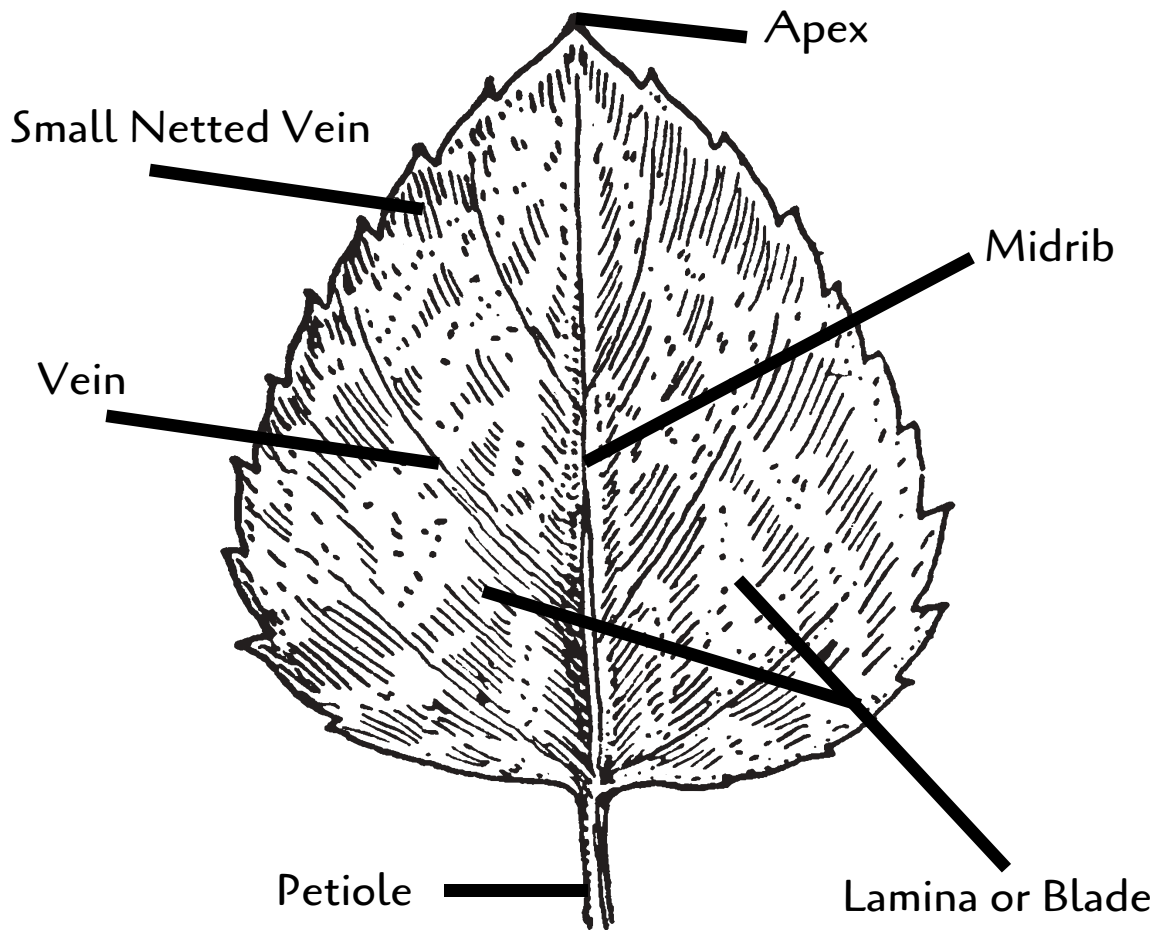
Step 2: Open your Nature Journal the next blank page. (Be sure not to skip any pages!) Today you are going to draw a sketch of your tree into your Nature Journal. Once you've sketched your tree lightly with your pencil, you may color it in with your colored pencils or watercolor paints.

Step 3: Write today's date next to your picture of your tree.

Younger students: Try to make the basic shape of the tree. If you have time, add the color that God made it or one element that stands out in the trees shape or habitat.

Older students: Look closely at the details of the tree. How do the branches intersect? What are the roots doing on the ground? What does the bark look like? Is there anything about the color or shape that lets you know the type of tree you are looking at. You may add these observations to your journal.

Parts of a Leaf



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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Designed and formatted by Joy Cherrick.

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