



Music in Nature



Nature-al Discoveries

Ever wonder what animals do when we get record snowfalls, like the snow we all enjoyed shoveling last month? How do the animals who do not hibernate *survive* deep snow? How do they find food? How do they stay warm? I live by a lake and my yard is part of the daily path of a herd of white-tailed deer. I always see them and their tracks in my yard. I am fairly familiar with their travel patterns around the lake and I didn't see much of them during the heavy snow. Why? Because during heavy snows, white-tailed deer have an amazing survival strategy. They engage in what is called, "yarding up." This typically occurs in colder climates that receive larger amounts of snow on a regular basis; however, deer in the mid-atlantic will yard-up if weather conditions are severe enough. When deer yard-up, they herd together and bed-down in a single location within thick forest growth (rhododendron thickets, hemlock groves...). The deer will make warmth their primary concern, tamping down areas of thick growth for protection and keeping the snow from piling up too high in the chosen "yard" (or site). So much emphasis is placed on the warmth (protective cover) of the location, that deer will remain in the same "yard" even when the little bit of food that is available becomes more scarce. At that point, the smaller, weaker deer die off, providing more food for the stronger deer. **Another winter survival advantage for the white-tailed deer?** Deer have a four-part stomach that allows them to eat and properly digest foods most other animals cannot eat (tree bark, woody plants and plants containing a rough, organic compound called cellulose that many other animals cannot digest)!



YARD UP!

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE NATURE-AL DISCOVERIES BULLETIN BOARD FOR YOUR CHILD'S DISCOVERY WALK DATE!

Please feel free to join us!

This month, our focus will be on music in nature. We will explore the different sounds we might hear along a nature trail. We will try to mimic animal calls along the trail as well! Here are a few books you might enjoy reading to your child this month:

[My Very First Book of Animal Sounds](#) by Eric Carle

[Noisy Zoo](#) (Usborne Books)

[The Seals on the Bus](#) by Lenny Hort

[The Very Quiet Cricket](#) by Eric Carle

[Wild Animals \(Stereo Book\)](#) by Rosanna Hansen and Linda Falken

[Gobble, Growl, Grunt](#) by Peter Spier

[Listen to the Desert / Oye Al Desierto](#) (English/Spanish) by Pat Mora

[Who Hoots?](#) by Katie Davis

[Frogs Sing Songs](#) by Yvonne Winer

[Mice Squeak, We Speak](#) by Tomie dePaola

FAMILY FUN

Ever surf the web with your kids? Here is a fun parent-child activity. Use your preferred search engine, and look for different animal sounds. Listen to the different animal sounds with your youngster. Here are a few websites to help get you started:

<http://www.animalpicturesarchive.com/animal/SOUND/>

<http://www.fws.gov/video/sound.htm>

<http://www.dccl.org/Sounds/sound.htm>

http://www.e-vet.com//component/option.com_wrapper/Itemid,30/



Photo Credit: Darren Melrose

Credit: Lisa Garcia

IN THE CLASSROOM

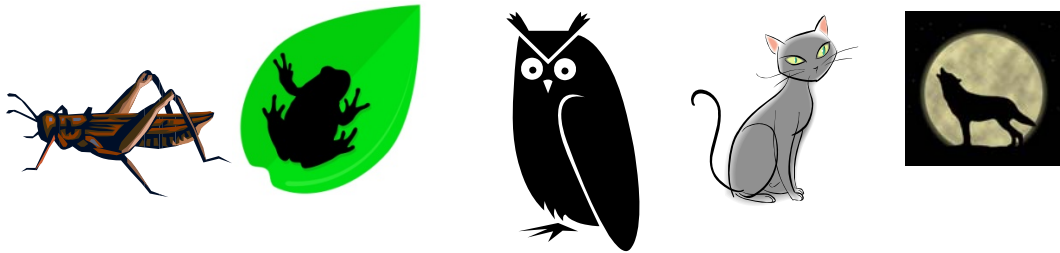
Grab your classroom binoculars and head outside! How many different non-human creatures can you hear out there? Can you see any of the creatures you hear? Point out birds and other critters and have children listen!

Follow-Up activity: JOURNAL ENTRY- Have children draw a picture of what they saw & heard outside. They can write or dictate information about their pictures!

KIDDIE COVE

Music in Nature: Sounds like Spring!

GUESS THAT CRITTER... MAKE THAT SOUND!



Can you hear these sounds outside? Can you make the same sounds?



Red-Tailed Hawk
© Janet Rosenberg, 2007



Mourning Dove
© Ken Schneider, 2008



Grey Squirrel
© Rod Planck



Woodpecker Pecking
© Ronaldok, 2009



Wind Blowing
© WPClipart



Rain Falling
© Changmi kot, Hanoi



American Crow
© Kevin McGowan



Barred Owl
© Peter R. Stettenheim/CLO



Dog
© Angela Furlong, 2010