



# Junior Discovery Box List



Discovery Boxes are available to leaders for use on a first-come, first-served basis. Call to reserve boxes at 870-4330.

All boxes come complete with equipment and activity guides including necessary background materials for the hands-on, site-specific activities. The boxes on this list are especially appropriate for children in grades K-2. Leaders are encouraged to use an interdisciplinary approach with these activities by incorporating math, art, language arts, and social studies with science.

Discovery Boxes provide wonderful activities for children to use in learning about the environment and the role each human being plays in it. Group leaders are encouraged to implement pre- and post-activities emphasizing Box themes.

**1. Plants**

**GROW A TREE ●**

**Length:** 20 minutes **Source:**  
**Area:** Indoors or Outdoors – seated  
**Summary:** Reinforce what plants need to live and grow (air, sun, water, & soil) in a sit-down game.

**MAPLE SEED MIX-UP ●**

**Length:** 30 minutes **Source:** *Naturescope*  
**Area:** Indoors or Outdoors – open area  
**Summary:** Students act out the randomness of seed dispersal to areas with favorable conditions, while learning some things that may inhibit seed growth.

**MEET A TREE ●**

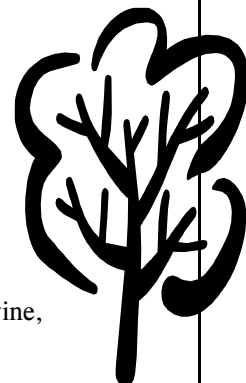
**Length:** 20 – 30 minutes **Source:** J. Cornell  
**Area:** Outdoors – forest setting  
**Summary:** Use the sense of touch to discover and recognize a particular tree by its bark texture and other trunk features.

**PLANT BINGO ●**

**Length:** 30 minutes **Source:** Stephanie Avett  
**Area:** Outdoors – garden or trail  
**Summary:** Play bingo as you search for and identify different types of plants (ex: vine, tree, fern), parts of plants (ex: flower, leaf, seed) and more!

**TERRIFIC TREES ●**

**Length:** 1 hour **Source:** Blue Jay Point Staff  
**Area:** Anywhere  
**Summary:** Use the series of labeled, laminated leaf cards for a family group matching activity. The cards can then be used as an identifying guide to leaves on a tree hike.



**2. Animals**

**FROGS AND POLLIWOGS ●**

**Length:** 30 – 45 minutes **Source:** *Hands-On Nature*  
**Area:** Anywhere  
**Summary:** Learn about the physical differences between frogs and tadpoles while discussing the metamorphosis process. Discuss how their adaptations affect their life and participate in an action play, “Merry Metamorphosis.”

**MEET A MATE ●**

**Length:** 30 minutes **Source:** *Naturescope*  
**Area:** Anywhere  
**Summary:** Students test the accuracy of their sense of hearing and compare themselves with animals that communicate largely by sound rather than sight. Find a mate who sounds like you!



**NOSE KNOWS, THE ●**

**Length:** 30 minutes **Source:** NPS Wolf Pac  
**Area:** Anywhere  
**Summary:** Test the accuracy of humans’ sense of smell and compare it to that of other animals by locating members of your “fox family” using only your nose and secret scents in film canisters. *Allergy Note: This box uses artificial and natural scents, including almond extract (tree nut).*

**3. Invertebrates****BUG BINGO ●**

**Length:** 30 minutes – 1 hour **Source:** *Naturescope*  
**Area:** Indoors or Outdoors  
**Summary:** Introduce insect habitats and look at the ways insects find food, water, shelter, and a place to lay eggs. Test abilities to spot these with a bingo game on a hike or a sit-down game with clues.

**CAMO-CREEPERS ●**

**Length:** 30 minutes **Source:** Project WILD  
**Area:** Outdoors – meadow, wooded trail, parking lot margins  
**Summary:** Learn about the concept of camouflage—of both predator and prey—while hunting for pipe cleaner “walking sticks.”

**SPIDER SENSATIONS ●**

**Length:** 15 minutes **Source:** *Hands-On Nature*  
**Area:** Anywhere  
**Summary:** Taking on the role of a spider, play a simple game to learn how web-spinning spiders know by touch, rather than sight, when they’ve captured their prey.

**4. Ecology****SOCK IT TO ME ●**

**Length:** 30 – 45 minutes **Source:** Kelley Stanton  
**Area:** Anywhere  
**Summary:** Participants test their sense of touch by reaching into a “mystery sock” and trying to guess what it contains. Students can also work on their descriptive language skills by describing what their mystery object feels like to find their match among fellow participants. *Allergy Note: This activity includes whole and “chewed” tree nuts (pecans and black walnuts).*

**WOODLAND BINGO ●**

**Length:** 30 minutes – 1 hour **Source:** D’Nise Hefner  
**Area:** Anywhere  
**Summary:** Play bingo as a focused nature hike or a sit-down game with clues.

**5. Enviro. Studies****EARTH BUDDIES ●**

**Length:** 1 hour **Source:** Parts adapted from Naturescope  
**Area:** Anywhere  
**Summary:** Encourage the development of an environmental ethic with these 3 separate, short activities. These activities focus on things that are good or harmful for the Earth; creative thinking about reusing an everyday object; and comparing the “environmentally green” components of bagged lunches rather than the nutritional component.

**EYE SPY ●**

**Length:** 30 minutes **Source:** Kat Bukowy  
**Area:** Blue Jay Center for Environmental Education  
**Summary:** Students will increase their skills of observation in this visual indoor scavenger hunt. Most appropriate for younger audiences and students with reading/language differences.

**6. Earth Science****AIR BINGO ●**

**Length:** 30 minutes **Source:** US EPA—Air Pollution Training Institute  
**Area:** Large room-sized area, indoors or out **Source:** Air Pollution Scavenger Hunt (adapted)  
**Summary:** This activity will help early elementary children begin thinking about the air around them and air quality concerns. Even young children have the power to influence the quality of the air around them.

