

JUNIOR DISCOVERY BOXES

at Blue Jay Point County Park

"Jr. Discovery Boxes" are available for group leaders to use in the park **by reservation**. Call (919) 870-4330 or email bluejaypoint@wakegov.com to reserve boxes for use or to schedule a time to review the boxes prior to use.

All boxes come complete with equipment, activity guides and background material necessary to conduct one or more hands-on, site specific activities. Discovery Box information cannot be photocopied due to copyright restrictions.

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 and adults to use in learning about the environment and the role each human being plays in it.

Boxes with special Group Adaptability

The following activities are especially appropriate for children in grades K-2. Some boxes require a class-size group to make the activity work, while other boxes indicated with a  can be done in small groups.

1. Plants



GROW A TREE

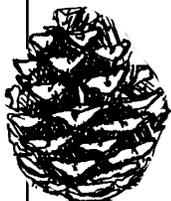
Length: 20 minutes **Source:** Adapted from "Grow a Plant" USDA FS
Area: Indoors or Outdoors – seated
Summary: Reinforce what plants need to live and grow (air, sun, water, & soil) in a sit-down board game.

MAPLE SEED MIX-UP

Length: 30 minutes **Source:** Naturescope
Area: Indoors or Outdoors – open area
Summary: Participants 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 your sense of touch to discover and recognize a 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 giant concentration game or group matching activity. The cards can then be used as an ID guide on non-winter tree hikes.

2. Animals

FROGS AND POLLIWOGS ⚙️ ♀ *REVISED!*

Length: 30 – 60 minutes

Source: Parts Adapted from *Frogs and Toads: a Whole Language Resource Guide*

Area: Outdoors (open area)/Indoors or Picnic Tables

Summary: Hop into learning about frogs with two activities designed to teach children about habitat and life cycles. **Frog Jump** is an outdoor physical activity where children take turns hopping across a series of spots while learning about frogs' habitat needs. **A Frog's Life** is a "small group" board game which reviews the stages of frog metamorphosis.

MEET A MATE ⚙️

Length: 30 minutes

Source: *Naturescope*

Area: Anywhere

Summary: Participants test the accuracy of their sense of hearing and compare themselves with animals that communicate largely by sound rather than sight. Using the sound made by your special sound canister, find a mate and form a family group who sounds like you!

3. Invertebrates

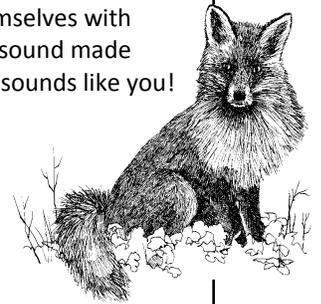
BUG BINGO ⚙️ ♀

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 participants' abilities to spot insects and habitats with a bingo game while on a hike or as a sit-down game with clues.



CAMO-CREEPERS ⚙️ ♀

Length: 30 minutes

Source: Project WILD

Area: Outdoors – meadow, wooded trail, parking lot margins

Summary: Experience the thrill of the hunt learning about predator and prey camouflage while searching for pipe cleaner "walking stick insects."

SPIDER SENSATIONS ⚙️

Length: 15 minutes

Source: *Hands-On Nature*

Area: Anywhere

Summary: Taking on the role of a spider, take part in a simple activity to learn how web-spinning spiders know by touch, rather than sight, when they've captured their prey.

4. Ecology

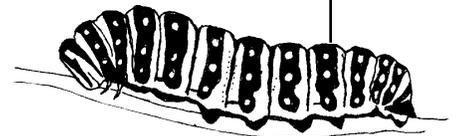
SOCK IT TO ME ⚙️ ♀

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 acorns and black walnuts).*



WOODLAND BINGO ⚙️ 👤

Length: 30 minutes – 1 hour

Source: D’Nise Hefner

Area: Anywhere

Summary: Get everyone out on a hike to enjoy Blue Jay’s trails! Ask Blue Jay staff for trail recommendations to fit the amount of time your group has available. Participants will enjoy a visual scavenger hunt for things in nature. In case of inclement weather, or as a follow up learning session, play the “sit-down” version of Woodland Bingo with age appropriate clues that teach participants something about each nature item.

5. Environmental Studies

EARTH BUDDIES ⚙️ 👤

Length: 30–60 minutes

Source: Parts adapted from *Naturescope*

Area: Anywhere

Summary: Encourage the development of an environmental ethic with three 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 components. Each activity can stand alone.

EYE SPY ⚙️ 👤

Length: 30 minutes

Source: Kat Bukowy

Area: Blue Jay Center for Environmental Education (Mon-Sat 8a.m.-5p.m.)

Summary: Participants will increase their skills of observation in this visual indoor scavenger hunt. Most appropriate for younger audiences and students with reading/language differences.

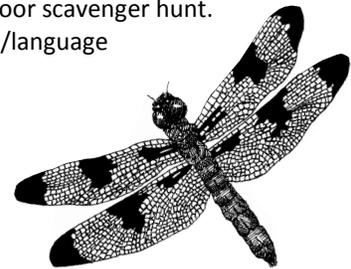
GARDEN EYE SPY ⚙️ 👤

Length: 30 minutes

Source: Blue Jay staff

Area: Blue Jay Education Garden

Summary: Students will increase their skills of observation in this visual all-season outdoor scavenger hunt in the Blue Jay Education Garden. Two sets of cards provide challenges for participants of varying ages.



6. Earth Science

AIR BINGO ⚙️

Length: 30 minutes

Source: US EPA—Air Pollution Training Institute -
Air Pollution Scavenger Hunt (adapted)

Area: Seated area indoors or out

Summary: This activity will help early elementary children begin thinking about the air around them and air quality concerns. Children have the power to affect the quality of the air around them.