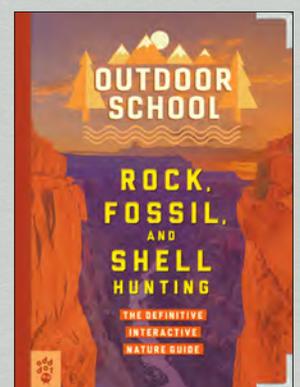
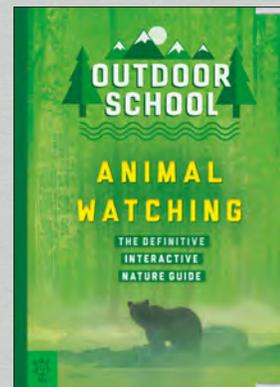
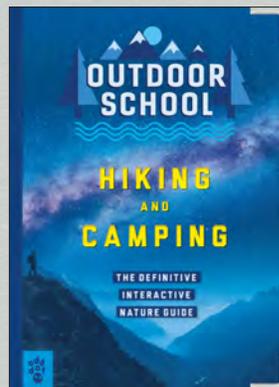
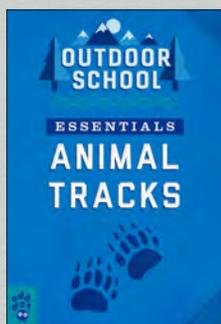
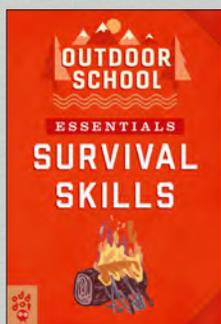
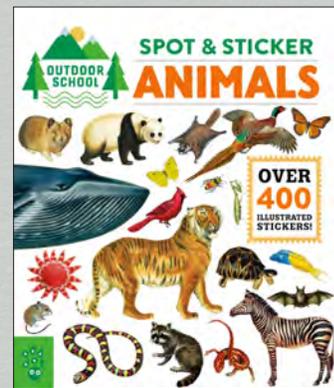




OUTDOOR SCHOOL

Activity Kit



OUTDOOR SCHOOL SERIES

An imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group

TRACK IT ↘

What are the most common types of weather near you? Are there lots of wet months? How about extreme humidity and heat? Write three common weather forecasts where you live. What kind of hike will give you the most enjoyment in each kind of weather? For example, is the weather good for mountains views or do you want to stay lower or seek cover in the forest?



HIKE 1:

- The typical forecast usually calls for a high of degrees and a low of degrees.
- There is usually a percent chance of rain or snow.
- The sun rises around a.m. and sets around p.m.
- Other conditions to consider (such as high winds, poor air quality, or a full moon):
- Based on this weather, the best hike is:

HIKE 2:

- The typical forecast usually calls for a high of degrees and a low of degrees.
- There is usually a percent chance of rain or snow.
- The sun rises around a.m. and sets around p.m.
- Other conditions to consider (such as high winds, poor air quality, or a full moon):
- Based on this weather, the best hike is:

HIKE 3:

- The typical forecast usually calls for a high of degrees and a low of degrees.
- There is usually a percent chance of rain or snow.
- The sun rises around a.m. and sets around p.m.
- Other conditions to consider (such as high winds, poor air quality, or a full moon):
- Based on this weather, the best hike is:



THE GOOD-TO-GO CHECKLIST

TRACK IT ↘

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A map or guidebook, internet access, and a friend or two.

Here's a checklist to make sure you are good to go. Use it for your next hike and return to it as a template for future adventures.

- Look at your map or guidebook and pick a trail that you want to explore.
- Write the name of the park, forest, or nature preserve where the hike is located. (Look closely: Sometimes trails cross over several different properties or land management regions.)

- Circle the features you think you will see on your hike:

STREAM

LAKE

WATERFALL

BEACH

MOUNTAIN

- Given the features chosen above, what gear will you need?

WATCH SOME LOCAL WILDLIFE!

TRY IT →



Wild animals are all around. Need proof? See for yourself.

STEP 1 Go outside and sit for five minutes. Try to stay still and be quiet, blending into the background. The goal is for animals not to notice you or see you as a threat. Look around for birds, squirrels, or anything that's wild.

STEP 2 Check off any of these that you observed or noticed:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> animal flying | <input type="checkbox"/> animal making noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> animal eating | <input type="checkbox"/> animal with wings |

Anything else?

STEP 3 Now get up and walk around. Do you see any evidence that animals were there? Check off any you found:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> nest | <input type="checkbox"/> animal tracks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> snake skin | <input type="checkbox"/> holes in trees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> antler or bone | <input type="checkbox"/> scat (animal poop) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fur or feather | <input type="checkbox"/> holes in ground |

Anything else?



EXPLORE YOUR SURROUNDINGS FOR FOSSILS

TRACK IT ↘



Hunting for fossils is a big job. Sometimes you find a fossil right away. Other times you can look for hours (or days) and not find anything. The thing to remember is that you should look everywhere.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A pen or pencil and a piece of paper or this book

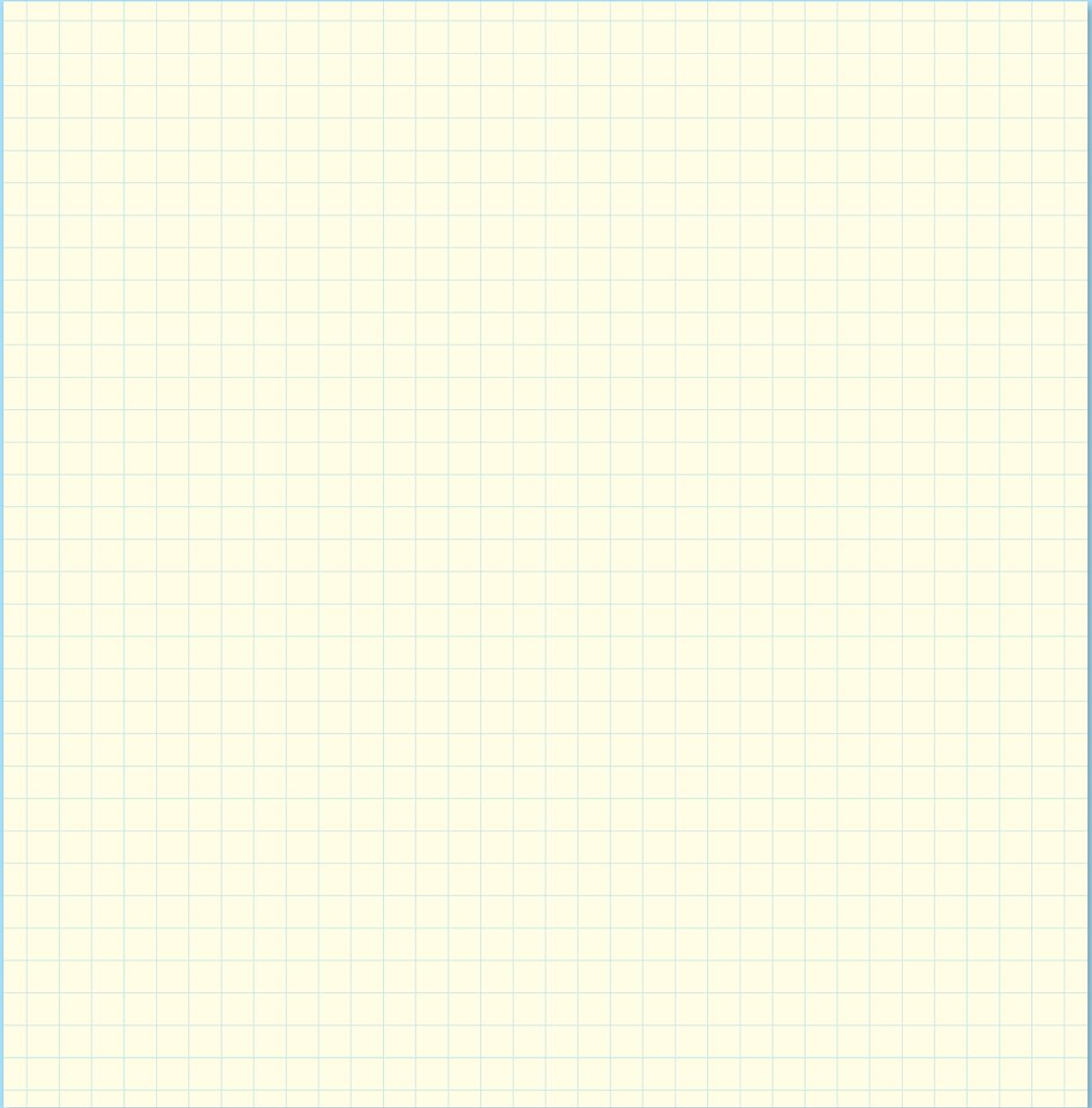
STEP 1 Pick a safe place to explore. It could be a local park, rocky trail, mountain, stream, lake, or even your own backyard. Research the most likely place to find fossils nearby. Find a geologic map, look for rock formations, and pick the most likely spot.

Look for these kinds of places:

- streams or rivers with sandbanks
- dry, sandy places (like a desert)
- sandy beaches (of oceans or lakes)
- mountains or outcrops that are made from sedimentary rock such as shale or sandstone



STEP 2 Before you start hunting, create a map of the area you plan to explore in the space below.



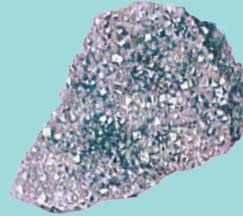
STEP 3 Now look at your map. Circle the kinds of places listed in step 1. Although fossils can be found anywhere, these areas will be the best place to start looking. Once you've figured out where to look, it's time to grab your gear and go!



YOUR FIRST ROCK HUNT

TRY IT →

It's time to start your first rock collection! Be sure to pick your rocks carefully and keep them in a safe place because you'll be using this collection for all the activities in this part of the book.

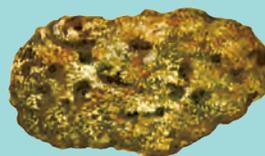


WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A dry day, a strong backpack, twelve bags or containers that close easily or an empty egg carton, a permanent marker and a roll of masking tape to make labels, a water bottle and a snack (rock hunting can make you hungry!), a small shovel and gloves, safety goggles or glasses, your rock-hunting map, a compass (even if you have a smartphone with GPS), and a camera.

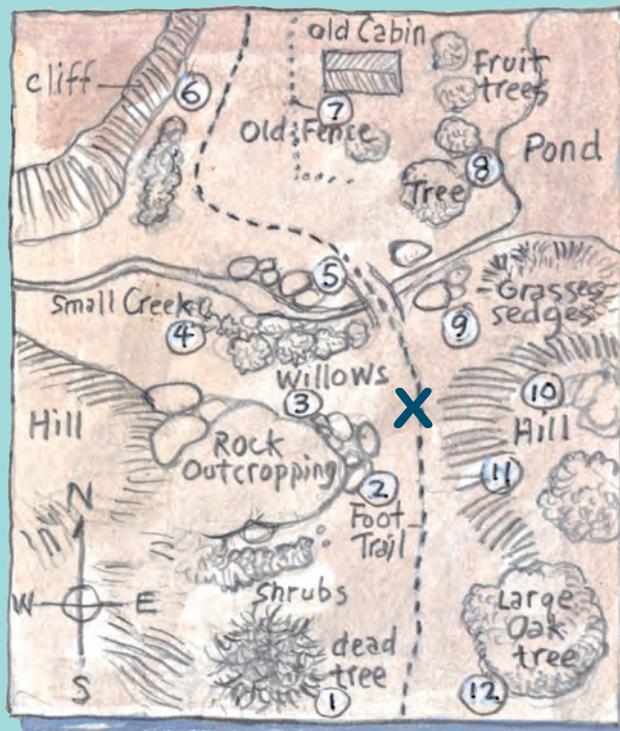
STEP 1 Put your gloves on and let's go! Walk along the trail looking for rocks. You don't want to pick up every one you see (your pack will get very heavy), just the ones that catch your eye.

PRO TIP Don't just look for rocks along the trail. Look all around you—by trees, near the lake, in the streams (but not too deep!), even on the side of a big rock mountain (but not too close to the edge!). You want to gather as many different types of rocks as you can. If some rocks are tough to get, use your shovel. Remember, you are a Rock Hound on the hunt!



STEP 2 When you pick a rock, put it in its own bag or container. Take your marker and masking tape and number the bag or container. If you're using the egg carton, you can put the number on the inside top of the cup.

STEP 3 Now look at your map. Mark on the map where you picked up the rock, using the same number that you put on the bag or egg container cup with that rock.



I DID IT! DATE:



WHICH BOOK SHOULD YOU READ NEXT?

ARE YOU ON THE LOOKOUT FOR WILDLIFE?

OR

PREPPING YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE?

Are your eyes on the sky or are you busy exploring the forest floor?

Would you rather climb Mount Everest or discover something new?



SKY

FOREST

MOUNT EVEREST

SOMETHING NEW



Do you prefer fawning over flora or are you crazy for creatures?

ELEMENTS

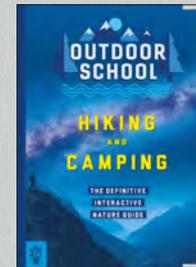
CAMPER

BEAR

ROCK

FLORA

CREATURES



Would you rather track animals on foot or observe the animals already around you?

TRACK

OBSERVE

