

Artists, Scientists, and Conservationists

# Artists, Scientists, and Conservationists: A Printable Nature Journal



*“A useful definition of love is sustained compassionate attention. Each time students have an opportunity for sustained compassionate attention with a leaf, an insect, or a tree, they fall in love a little bit with the natural world.”*  
~John Muir Laws~

Welcome, budding scientists, artists, conservationists and all other future –ists! Print these pages to help you keep a field journal of your experiences out in nature. Anywhere you are, there is nature. It is all around us, but often we do not notice how amazing it is! Any time you take a walk you can practice your skills of noticing, wondering, and drawing connections. These journal pages, inspired by naturalist John Muir Laws, will help you practice skills needed for being scientists, artists, and conservationists.

## Artists, Scientists, and Conservationists

*Did you know that noticing, wondering, and making connections are VERY important skills for scientists, artists, and conservationists?*

### Scientists

Part of being a sound scientist is to notice, to wonder, and to make connections. Keeping a nature journal provides important evidence for understanding nature and making predictions about why something is a certain way.



It is hard to imagine Darwin's scientific success if he had not kept nature journals from which to support his Theory of Evolution!

### Artists

Noticing, wondering, and making connections is also the basis for being a good artist. Artists observe the world around and translate it into new experiences. Artists are good at knowing important details and helping others make connections.



Consider what Frida Kahlo's self-portraits would have looked like had she had not connected how important her eyebrows could be to the messages she wanted to communicate.

### Conservationists

Conservation is about helping the planet stay healthy. A good conservationist has to have skills as a scientist and an artist because they have to know why things are the way they are, and also be able to help others make connections in their own lives. Conservationists have to be skilled at moving between art and science!



In her book, Rachel Carson translated the science of how chemical pesticides were impacting ecosystems to something meaningful in people's own experiences. The very title, *Silent Spring*, connects to people's experiences hearing bird songs.

## Artists, Scientists, and Conservationists

**Instructions:** Go on a walk every day. On your walk, choose something in nature that catches your eye. It could be a plant, animal, fungus, rock, hill, or anything else you notice in nature! Once you find that day's nature object, take turns with those you are walking with answering each of the three prompts. Spend at least one minute sharing your answers out loud. Then, write some of them in your journal pages. You can use the back sides for artwork inspired by your nature object.

We hope that you will share some of your great discoveries and art with us on social media! #Lotuslandgardens.



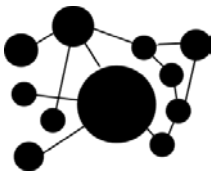
**I notice:** *I notice* statements are things you observe with your senses (sight, smell, hearing, touch. We don't recommend tasting anything unless an adult says it is okay). *I notice* statements focus on the here and now.

*For example, you might say, "I notice this tree curves in towards the top," or "I notice this leaf has different shades of green on the top and the bottom."*



**I wonder:** Use this statement to ask as many questions about your object as possible. What are you curious about? Do you wonder why a plant is growing a certain way, or where an ant is headed?

*For example, you might say, "I wonder why this leaf is a different shade of green on the top and the bottom."*



**It reminds me of:** *It reminds me of* statements can be something your object looks like, or an experience an object makes you remember. It could be also a certain feeling.

*For example, you might say "This leaf reminds me of a tree in my yard," or "This leaf reminds me of a nature show I saw once."*

# Artists, Scientists, and Conservationists

Today's date is: Sunday, \_\_\_\_\_



I notice

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I wonder

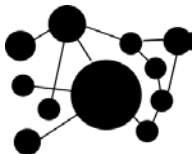
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It reminds me of

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# Artists, Scientists, and Conservationists

Today's date is: Monday, \_\_\_\_\_



I notice

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I wonder

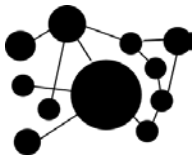
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It reminds me of

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# Artists, Scientists, and Conservationists

Today's date is: Tuesday, \_\_\_\_\_



I notice

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I wonder

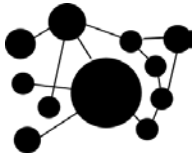
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It reminds me of

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# Artists, Scientists, and Conservationists

Today's date is: Wednesday, \_\_\_\_\_



I notice

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I wonder

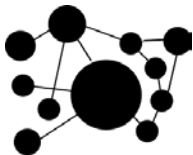
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It reminds me of

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# Artists, Scientists, and Conservationists

Today's date is: Thursday, \_\_\_\_\_



I notice

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I wonder

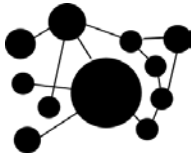
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It reminds me of

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# Artists, Scientists, and Conservationists

Today's date is: Friday, \_\_\_\_\_



I notice

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I wonder

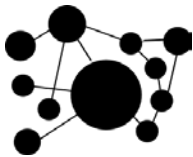
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It reminds me of

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# Artists, Scientists, and Conservationists

Today's date is: Saturday, \_\_\_\_\_



I notice

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I wonder

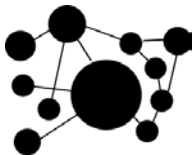
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It reminds me of

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