

WILD FAMILIES



Wild science family fun for 'serious scientists'

Being a scientist means you get time to observe things closely. It means taking time to think about questions like 'What is it?', 'Why does it do that?', 'How does it work?'. Scientists can spend years thinking about and answering these types of questions.

You and your family can take your time to try the suggested activities below. They require you to use your scientific skills of studying closely, questioning your observations and interpreting nature.

Remember to look after the safety of your family on all outdoor activities.

1. Find some evidence that an animal has been here. What did you find? What was the animal doing? Can you guess what it was?

2. Spot two different types of birds. Name two characteristics about them that make them different from each other (not just colour).

3. Find a place where an animal made a home. How was it made? Why did the animal choose this place? What animal made it?

4. Find a living thing that has been here for a long time. How old do you think it might be? Why?

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FAMILY FUN FOR 'SERIOUS SCIENTISTS'

Scientists record their observations in many ways including writing, drawing, photos and numbers. You could try any or all of these ways to record the observations you make while answering these questions.

5. How many different species/types of plants can you count in this area (remember to include grasses and have a look for tiny plants)?

6. Be still and quiet. What wildlife sounds can you hear? Do animals "talk" to each other? What do you think they are saying? Why?

7. Spy on a small critter. What do you think it is doing? Why?

8. Find a branch, log or rock. How do you think it got here? What (moss, lichen, fungi, insects, snails)? Always keep your hands and feet where you can see them.

9. Find a seed. How do you think it got here? What do you think will happen to it? Are there more like it nearby? Why?

