

Neighborhood Field Trip

Outdoor BINGO

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior



Rocky Mountain National Park
Colorado

Plan and Prepare:

Always follow the guidance of the CDC, local and state authorities when planning your activities. Check the current weather conditions in the location where you are going and make sure you have a map when traveling to a new location.

Respect Wildlife:

Watch wildlife from a distance. Never feed animals.

Dispose of Waste Properly:

Use restrooms or step away from the trail and bury waste at least 6 inches deep. Carry out all trash including toilet paper.

Leave What You Find:

This includes rocks, pinecones, and flowers.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors:

Share the trail and use quiet voices.

Welcome! This family field trip guide provides an opportunity for parents and their students to explore their neighborhood and connect learning to Colorado State Educational Standards. While each activity is listed as a specific grade level, the whole family can participate. Parents are encouraged to read the additional resources and bring the materials listed so that they can support their students' learning.

Supported Grade Level Standard: Preschool, Standard 2.1. Life Science

"Recognize that living things have unique characteristics and basic needs that can be observed and studied."

Duration: 30-60 minutes

Location: Your neighborhood, your own backyard, or a visit a local outdoor space

Materials: 'BINGO' board (one per student), a marker, eyes, ears, and hands

Engage: Tell your student(s) that you are going to go on an outdoor adventure to explore the plants and animals in your neighborhood, but before you go, you will have to prepare! Parents should prepare a BINGO board by talking with their students about things that they might see on the adventure and writing or drawing these objects on the board before leaving home. Some examples for your exploration might include animal tracks, holes in the ground or on trees, or your student's favorite bug. You may also choose to look for descriptive qualities such as colors or something that feels soft or hard, etc.

Explore: Get outside! Use the BINGO board as a guide to start looking for the items in your outdoor location. Allow your student(s) to do the majority of the exploration with some guidance. While looking for things with specific qualities (i.e. hard or soft), think about how they can be observed and compare them to each other. Facilitate the exploration by asking questions - for example, is tree bark hard? What does grass feel like? Encourage using the senses touch, smell, feel, and hear. Remember – you don't need to have all of the answers!

Explain: As you explore together to find the clues on your student's BINGO board(s), have them come up with ideas about what makes things feel or look different in nature. Explain that each plant and animal has special qualities that make them different from all other plants or animals.

Elaborate: Ask your student(s) guiding questions – For example: Would you be able to find the same items in a different season? Are there different sizes of your item? Ask why.

Evaluate: After you have found your items (either completing a form of BINGO or filling the board), head back indoors. On the way, have your student(s) reflect back on the activity and their time outdoors. Ask them what about their favorite discovery and ask why. Allow time to think about their day and relate their discoveries back to themselves.

Additional Resources:

Animals in Rocky: <https://www.nps.gov/romo/learn/nature/animals.htm>

Plants in Rocky: <https://www.nps.gov/romo/learn/nature/plants.htm>



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