Take a Nature Inventory

Have you ever taken a nature inventory? This unique outdoor investigation is something you can do almost anywhere with some very simple equipment. First, locate an outdoor area that you want to learn more about, such as a field or forest. Remember to get permission to take inventory in the area you’ve chosen, if necessary.

To set up your nature inventory, simply use a long piece of rope and wooden stakes to mark off a plot of land that is about twenty square feet. As another option, you might wish to rope off a larger area and divide it into quadrants; that way, you and three friends can each do your own investigation and then compare your discoveries. If you’d like to do this, consider including different features in each quadrant, such as a grassy field in one quadrant and a bubbling stream in another quadrant.

To take your nature inventory, examine every last centimeter of your square. Record all of the flora and fauna you find, from flowers and trees to tadpoles and centipedes. If possible, complete a nature inventory for this plot of land at least once during each quarter of the year. An inventory taken in December will be very different from one taken in May or in October, and you might learn some surprising things!