

June 2023

WILD KIDS

SEASONAL NATURE EDUCATION FOR KIDS & THEIR GROWN UPS

**Butterfly &
Caterpillar ID Cards**

**June Critter
Challenge**

**Chicken of the Woods
& Chanterelle
Mushrooms**

**June Phenology
Wheel & Photo
Challenge**

**With seasonal
poems, activities,
nature journal pages
& more**



From the editor

BY ALICIA BAYER

Welcome June!

Have you done any foraging so far this year? My husband and kids have done a lot. They bring me home something almost every day.

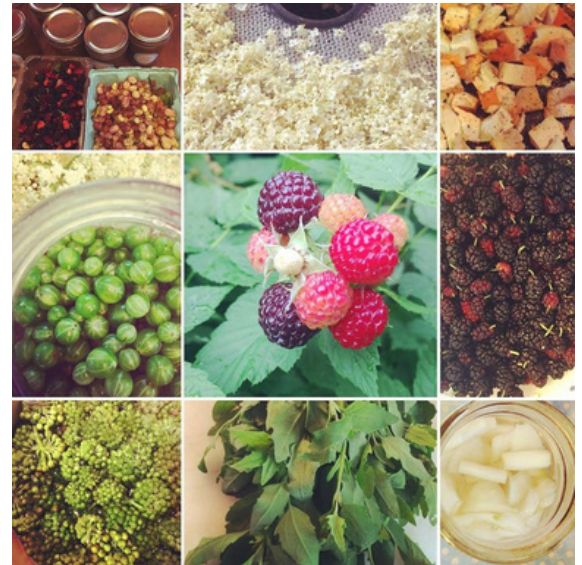
Some things we've foraged a lot of lately are wild asparagus, mullein, ramps, pheasant back mushrooms, oyster mushrooms, nettles, motherwort, dandelion flowers and catmint. We usually forage a lot of morels in the spring but we didn't find any this year. Some years are like that! Nature usually makes up for the lack of one thing with lots of something else.

June is a wonderful month for foraging. There are so many leaves, mushrooms, berries and even flowers that you can gather. Some that we're looking forward to this month where we live are elderflowers, cattails, mulberries, gooseberries, lambsquarters, chicken of the woods mushrooms, black raspberries and spruce tips. In other parts of the world, there are completely different plants to forage this time of year. If you don't know what's in season where you live, see if there are local people who forage who will share some of their knowledge with you. Sometimes I walk around friends' yards with them to show them wild edible and medicinal plants growing right in their yards.

There are so many other fun things to do in nature in June too! Our list includes hiking, camping, boating, bird watching, swimming, rock hunting, raising monarch caterpillars and butterflies, taking evening walks, watching storms and so many more. What do you love to do in June?

I hope you have a wonderful wild month!

Alicia



Some of our foraged goodies from June in other years

Why is Wild Kids free?

Kids (and their grown ups) need nature, and nature needs us! Our family believes in the importance of sharing & helping each other, and of passing on skills to help our world and each other. As long as we are able, we plan to produce Wild Kids to help do this for families who find it useful.

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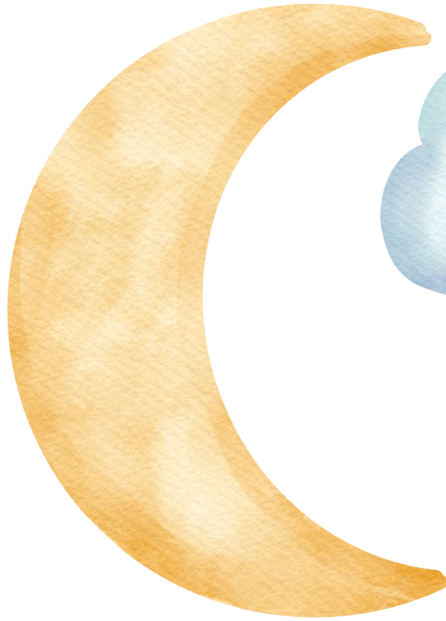
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Go Wild in June

10 WAYS TO PLAY & LEARN WITH NATURE THIS MONTH



Pound leaves and flowers onto paper and make cards or art with the designs

Set a goal to take pictures of 50 different kinds of bugs, trees or plants this month -- how many can you ID?

Sit quietly outside after dark and listen for night birds, animals and insects

Make a nature bracelet - loop some tape around your wrist, sticky side out, and then press in things like flower petals and leaves

Go camping in your back yard

Watch a bug for a few minutes and see what you can figure out about its life

Make sun tea with at least one wild ingredient like elderflowers, catmint, raspberry leaves or honeysuckle flowers

Practice skipping stones across a lake or pond -- How many skips can you get in a row? What shape of rocks skip best? (Hint: look for flat ones that aren't too light!)

Make a bucket list of things you want to do in nature this summer

Practice making a safe campfire with your family and then cook something over it

Caterpillars & Butterflies



Almost everybody loves butterflies, but a lot of times people forget that butterflies come from caterpillars.

A lot of people consider caterpillars to be pests, especially in the garden. They are very important for nature, though!

They are one of the major foods that birds rely on, for one thing -- especially baby birds.




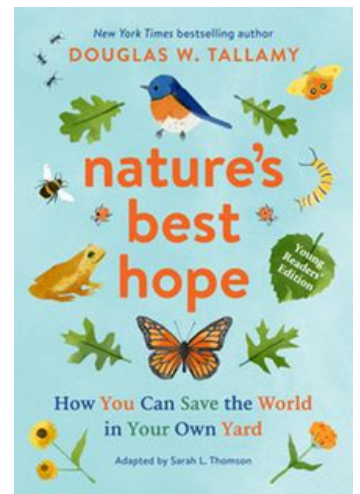
Scientists have also discovered that plants that have a little bit of damage from insects eating them actually have more nutrition too! They discovered that the plants make more of certain compounds to protect themselves and those compounds help protect us from things like cancer.



Most caterpillars have certain plants they need to eat.

Monarch caterpillars need milkweed plants, for instance.

Cecropia caterpillars and moths  rely on different plants like cherry, poplar and crabapple tree leaves. Many of them need native plants, or plants that grow naturally in your area. There's a really good book for kids called Nature's Best Hope, Young Reader's Edition, that helps you learn what to plant to help the caterpillars, butterflies and birds. (There's a version for grown ups that's great too!)



Here are some ID cards of common butterflies and the caterpillars that become them. Can you ID a monarch caterpillar? Now you can! There are thousands of different kinds, so these are just a few you might find. See what caterpillars and butterflies you can find where you live.





sulphur

swallowtail

monarch

fritillary

queen

cabbage

painted lady

comma

mourning cloak



sulphur

swallowtail

monarch

fritillary

queen

cabbage

painted lady

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mourning cloak

June Critter Challenge

How many can you find? See how many you can check off this month.
Make it a photo challenge if like photography, or draw them in a nature journal.
If some aren't in your area, look for something to substitute.



- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ladybug | <input type="checkbox"/> Bigger than a dime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moth | <input type="checkbox"/> Black bug |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shiny | <input type="checkbox"/> Snail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cricket | <input type="checkbox"/> Carrying something |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orange bug | <input type="checkbox"/> Cicada |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper | <input type="checkbox"/> Red bug |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue bug | <input type="checkbox"/> Fly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caterpillar | <input type="checkbox"/> Butterfly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Striped bug | <input type="checkbox"/> Metallic bug |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roly poly (sow bug) | <input type="checkbox"/> Firefly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ant | <input type="checkbox"/> Praying mantis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camouflaged bug | <input type="checkbox"/> Slug |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dragonfly | <input type="checkbox"/> Centipede |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multicolored bug | <input type="checkbox"/> Green bug |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wasp | <input type="checkbox"/> Spider |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spotted bug | <input type="checkbox"/> Eating a plant leaf |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mosquito | <input type="checkbox"/> Worm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming in/on water | <input type="checkbox"/> Bumblebee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A really pretty or cool bug
(Draw it below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Invent a bug!
(Draw it below) |



JUNE

Nature Photo Challenge

Try to head outside and take a picture each day with that day's prompt as an inspiration!



1 Bright

2 Sky

3 Berry

4 Feather

5 Flower

6 Water

7 Sunset

8 Wild

9 Pink

10 Fluffy

11 Shell

12 Shiny

13 Blue

14 Caterpillar

15 Bumpy

16 Pattern

17 Web

18 Tiny

19 Black & White

20 Symmetrical

21 Silhouette

22 Edible

23 Butterfly

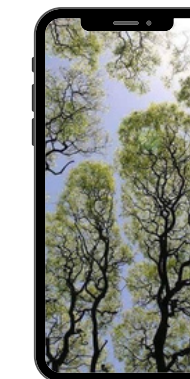
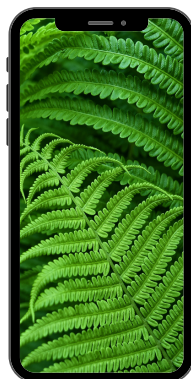
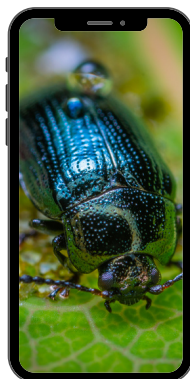
24 Up

25 Shadow

26 Many

27 Delicate

28 Evening

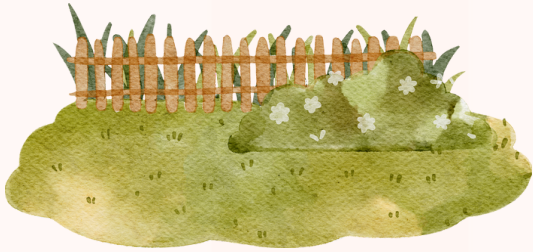


Poems for June

We have a little garden
by Beatrix Potter

We have a little garden,
A garden of our own,
And every day we water there
The seeds that we have sown.

We love our little garden,
And tend it with such care,
You will not find a faced leaf
Or blighted blossom there.



The Dove Oboe
by Effie Lee Newsome

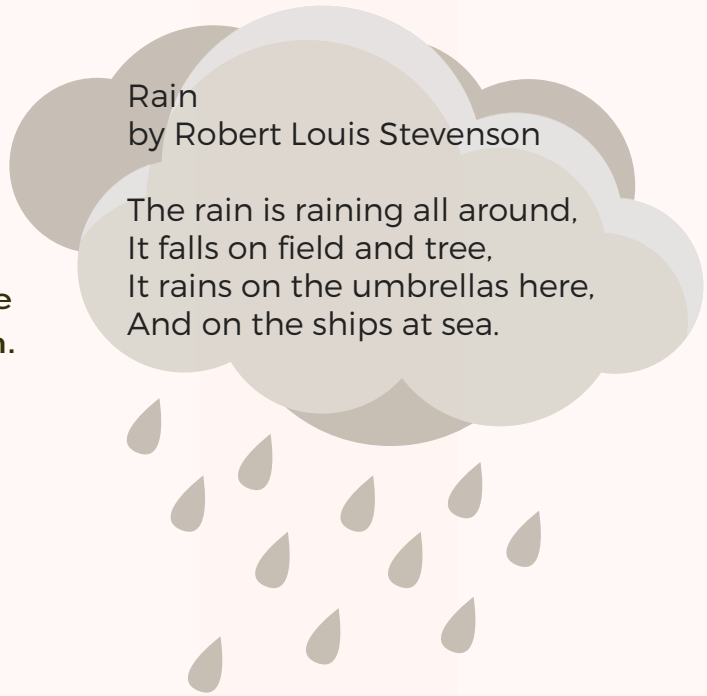


The oboe that the doves play on
Is very soft and sweet.
I hear it in the early dawn
Across the fields of wheat.

I hear it in the dusk again
With all the skies dove-gray.
The notes, still soft, are clear and plain.
Yet what sad tunes they play!

Rain
by Robert Louis Stevenson

The rain is raining all around,
It falls on field and tree,
It rains on the umbrellas here,
And on the ships at sea.



The Hawkmoths
by Effie Lee Newsome



The hawkmoths come to evening tea
Within the honeysuckle vine.
The guests all day have been the bee.
The flowers like humming guests, I see.

On the Grassy Banks
by Christina Rossetti

On the grassy banks
Lambkins at their pranks;
Woolly sisters, woolly brothers
Jumping off their feet
While their woolly mothers
Watch by them and bleat.



CHICKEN OF THE WOODS

(*Laetiporus*)

By Daryl Hrdlicka



"Chicken of the Woods" (*Laetiporus sulphureus*) is one of my favorite mushrooms, and impossible to miss. You can see the bright orange/yellow color from a long way away.

It's a kind of bracket fungus that grows on dead or dying trees, and grows in shelves or layers, sometimes as high as 2 feet tall! We've found clumps weighting 15 pounds.

Another kind, white-fleshed chicken-of-the-woods (*Laetiporus cincinnatus*), grows on roots underground. It's orange and cream colored.

It's called chicken-of-the-woods because the texture is very much like cooked chicken. It has fibers running through it that peel apart, and it can be used in any dish that called for chicken meat. It's a favorite of vegetarians. You can fry it, use it in soup, or cook it any way you want. It will last for a long time in the freezer as well.



Make sure it's always cooked before eating, though. You should never eat wild mushrooms raw.

Some people may have a reaction to eating it, so you should only try the younger, fresher parts first and only in small amounts to see how you handle it.

Note from Alicia: Remember to never, never, never, never, never eat a wild mushroom unless a trusted adult is 100% sure what it is!

Otherwise, just enjoy it by taking its picture or leave it for wildlife.



CHICKEN OF THE WOODS

(*laetiporus sulphureus*)



CHANTERELLE (Cantharellus)

By Daryl Hrdlicka

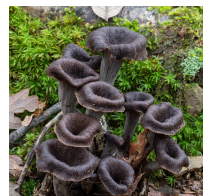
Chanterelle mushrooms (genus *Cantharellus*) are one of the best known wild edible mushrooms.

They look like trumpets sticking out of the ground, and they can be as large as 5 inches across (although 2 inches is most common). They range in color from white to yellow to deep orange, which makes them easy to see in the forest in the summer. They are a uniform color all over.

Besides the color and shape, the most distinctive feature are the false gills - they're more like wrinkles and are often forked, splitting in two. They're not like the gills of most mushrooms.

The smell is similar to apricots and the taste is sometimes "peppery" (the German name for them is "Pfifferling").

Black trumpets (*Craterellus cornucopioides*) are not actually chanterelles but look very similar and have more of a smoky flavor.

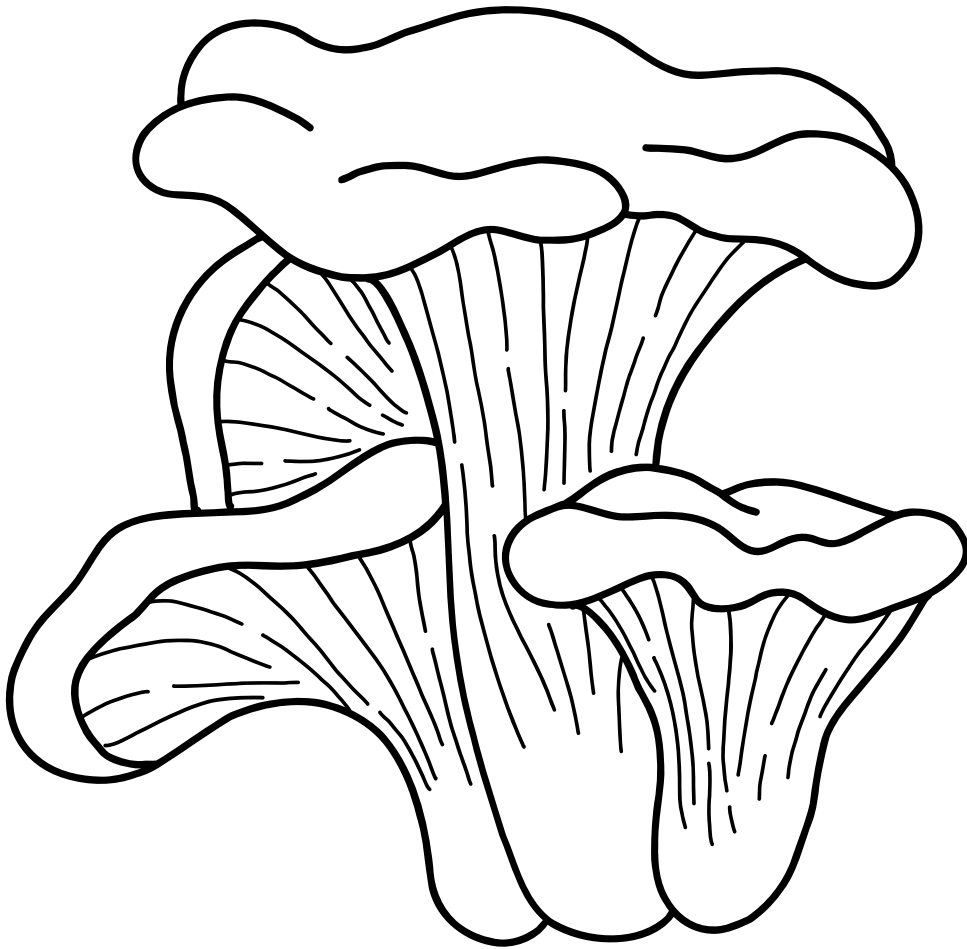


Beware of dangerous lookalikes! Jack-o-Lanterns (genus *Omphalotus*) have well-developed, straight gills. They grow near the base of trees and can be quite toxic.

False chanterelles (*Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca*) are usually gradiated in color and also have true gills. They're not as toxic but should still be avoided.



CHANTERELLE
(genus *Cantharellus*)



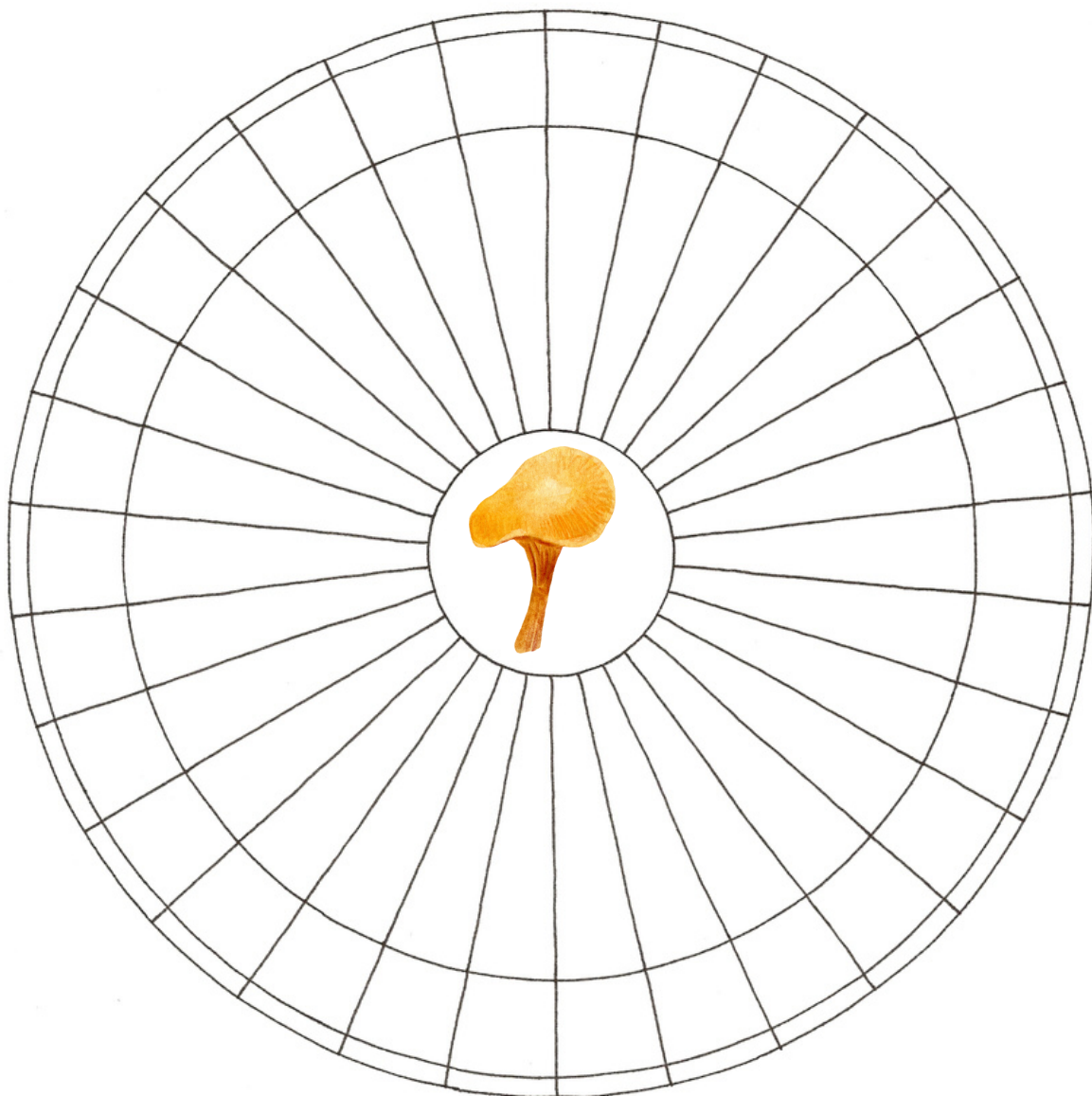
JUNE PHENOLOGY



Make a picture record of your observations in nature this month!

Draw, paint or color things you notice in nature each day --

Flowers blooming, butterflies spotted, thunderstorms, garden seedlings poking up...
Start with day 1 in the first wedge and go all around the wheel with your observations.

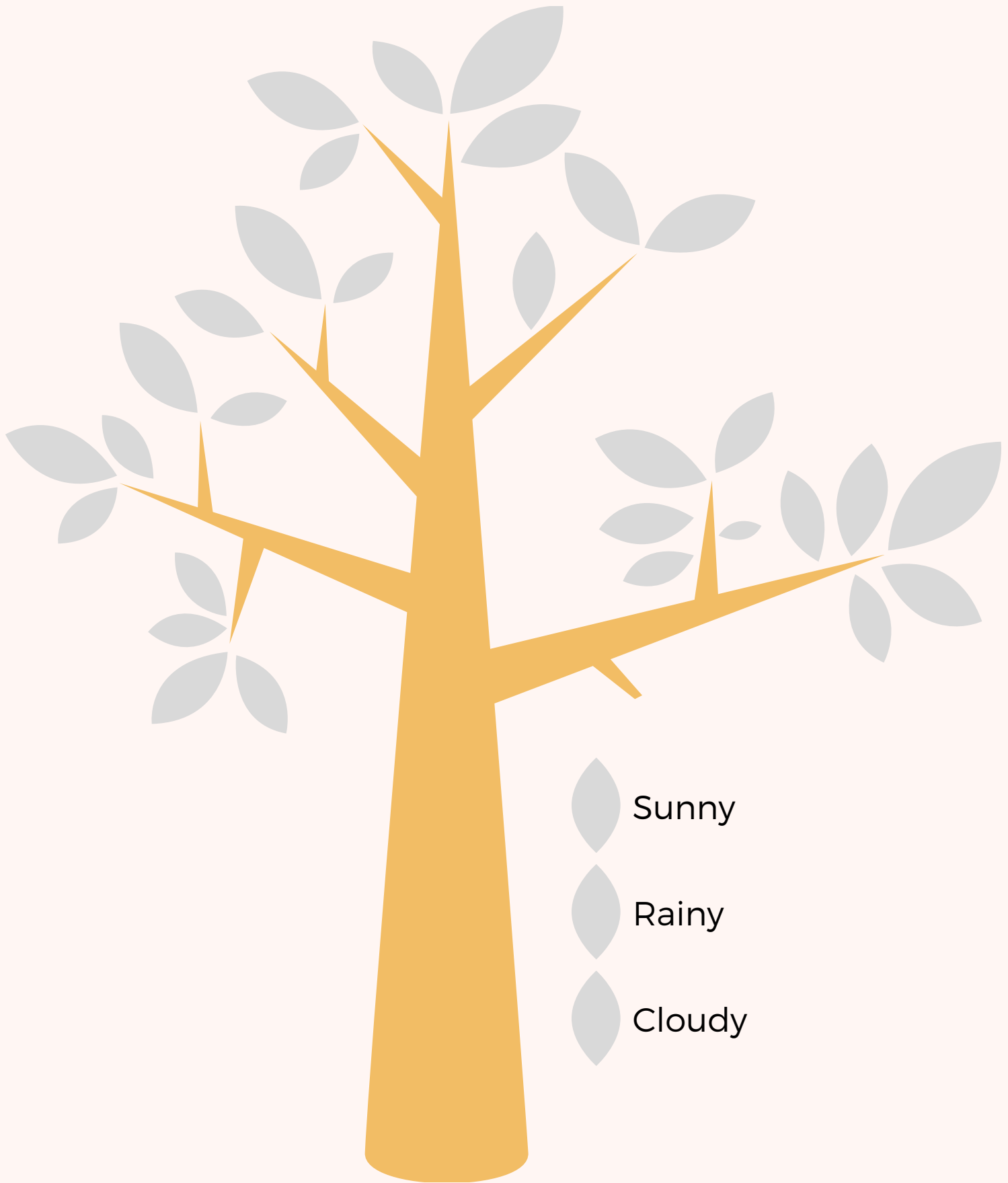


My Nature Journal

June



June Weather Tree



June Bird List

Birds spotted this month

June Animal List

Mammals, reptiles & other wildlife spotted this month

JUNE NATURE NOTES

Record any interesting discoveries here -- plants you identify, foods you forage, outdoor activities, cool nature projects, nature books read, or just notes about what it's like outside this week!

Week 1 Observations

Week 2 Observations

Week 3 Observations

Week 4 Observations

MY FORAGING GUIDE FOR:

GENERAL SKETCH OF THE PLANT

CLOSE-UP SKETCHES OF PLANT PARTS

LATIN NAME _____

WHERE FOUND _____

PARTS USED _____

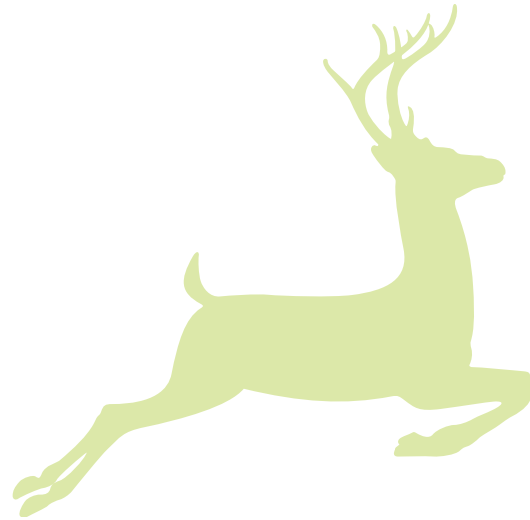
LOOKALIKES & HOW TO POSITIVELY ID:

WARNINGS: _____

FORAGING RECORD (DATES, WHERE FOUND, HOW IT WAS USED)

MY RATING FOR THIS PLANT





Want to see your stuff in Wild Kids?

We welcome articles, photos, artwork and other submissions from kids and their grown ups.

Visit magicalchildhood.com/wildkids to learn more

or email photographs, artwork, letters or other submissions to alicia.bayer@gmail.com