

July 2023

WILD KIDS

SEASONAL NATURE EDUCATION FOR KIDS & THEIR GROWN UPS

**Wonderful Ways
to Use Weeds**

**Summer
Foraging BINGO**

**Australian
Winter Foraging
BINGO**

**Black Trumpet &
Crown-Tipped Coral
Mushrooms**

**July Nature
Photo Challenges**

**Seasonal poems,
activities, nature
journal pages and more!**



From the editor

BY ALICIA BAYER

Hello July!

What are you hoping to do in nature this month?

We're hoping to do some day camping with friends this month, plus spend lots of time at the lake and hiking. We'll probably be foraging elderflowers, mullein flowers, black raspberries, lambsquarters, milkweed pods, chicken of the woods mushrooms and lots more. There are so many great plants to forage in July!

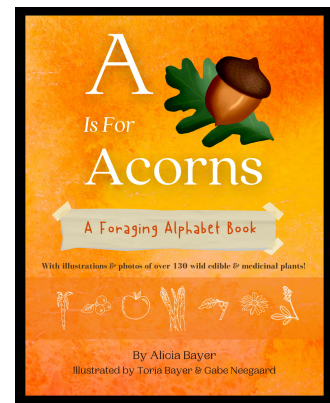
Speaking of foraging, our oldest child helped illustrate a new alphabet foraging book that I wrote. It was a lot of fun (and a lot of work!). That's Toria in the picture above, many years ago with a monarch caterpillar we raised and released as a butterfly.

Have you ever raised monarchs or other butterflies? Our family has been doing this every summer for many years. We grow milkweed in our yard because it's the host plant of monarchs. We check the leaves every few days and if we find a caterpillar or caterpillar egg we bring it and the leaf inside into our mesh caterpillar habitat. We stock it with fresh milkweed leaves every day and then watch when our caterpillar is big enough to hang in a J shape from the top and form a chrysalis. We watch it turn colors over the next 8-15 days or so, and then one morning we find a beautiful butterfly hanging from the top and drying its wings! It takes several hours for their wings to pump up and dry, and then we carefully release it in our back yard to start all over again. We have our first caterpillar of the season J-ing right now as I'm typing this. It's a pretty magical thing to take part in!

We have lots of fun stuff for you in this issue, including a summer foraging BINGO. Since we have lots of readers who are in Australia where it is winter time now, I made up a winter one for our Aussie readers. I had to learn a lot about the wonderful wild plants in your corner of the world. I hope I got it mostly right!

No matter where you are, I hope you have a wonderful, wild month!

Alicia



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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Contact: alicia.bayer@gmail.com

Go Wild in July!

10 WAYS TO PLAY & LEARN WITH NATURE THIS MONTH

Make a piece of garden art from natural materials like driftwood or recycled items like bicycle rims

Go to an outdoor concert, festival or play

Find something tiny outside to draw

See how many different kinds of birds you can spot in one day (and how many you can identify)

Put a white piece of paper in a picture frame, then put natural items like small flowers, petals and leaves behind the glass. How do they change throughout the month?

Look for wild berries like black raspberries, blueberries, gooseberries & mulberries

Look for driftwood, sea glass or shells at the beach

Take a magnifying glass outside (or use a magnifying app on a phone) and look at 10 natural items

If you're in the USA or Canada and have a yard, register it at *Homegrown National Park and track when your family plants native plants to help nature

Have fun with weeds (we have lots of ideas in this month's issue)

Wonderful Ways to Use *Weeds*

Weeds can be very annoying (especially to grown ups) but they have so many cool purposes! Here are some ways you can use common weeds for fun.



FOR HOUSEPLANTS: You can pot up lots of common weeds like purslane, English ivy and cacti to bring inside as houseplants.



TO ATTRACT BUTTERFLIES: Butterflies rely on a lot of weeds like milkweed, joe pye weed, violets, mallow and even thistles and nettles for food. Different butterflies need different flowers. Leave some weeds for the butterflies & see who visits.



FOR FLOWER CROWNS: You can weave invasive wildflowers like dandelions and periwinkles into flower crowns to wear. (The May 2019 issue of Wild Kids has instructions if you need them!)



FOR DYE: Pokeberries are poisonous but they make beautiful magenta ink! You can smash them to make dye or ink to draw and paint with. We've also dyed t-shirts just by rolling up the berries in a white t-shirt & squeezing. Be sure to wear gloves!



FOR WREATHS: You can use last year's dried vines from plants like wild grape and Virginia creeper to weave wreaths. Add flowers if you like.



FOR BLOWING BUBBLES: You can use large hollow stems from plants like dock to make bubble blowers. You can also cut a hole in large leaves like burdock leaves and dip those in bubble solution to blow bubbles.



FOR SCIENCE: Ask your grownups if you can experiment on weeds around your yard. See what happens if you cover them with a pot to block the light for a few days, for example.



FOR PLAY: You can pull the sections of horsetail apart and put them back together again, or spin the helicopter seeds of maple trees in the air. Some kids shoot the buds from buckhorn plantains and others make jewelweed pods burst & shoot seeds. How do you like to play with weeds?

Summer Foraging BINGO

Head out into nature and see how many of these wild plants you can find this summer. Make an x over the ones you spot and try to get a BINGO across, down, or diagonally.

Not all of these may be in your area and there are lots more out there. How many can you find?

If some of them are new to you, take time this month to learn more about them!



FREE



Some of these may be known by other names where you live. We used common names here to save space but remember you'll be a much better forager if you learn latin names & common names!

AUSTRALIA EDITION



Winter Foraging BINGO

Head out into nature and see how many of these wild edible and medicinal plants you can find this winter. Make an x over the ones you spot and try to get a BINGO either across, down, or diagonally.

Not all of these may be in your area and there are lots more out there. How many can you find?

If some of them are new to you, take time this month to learn more about them!

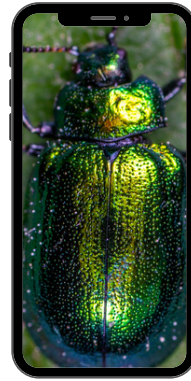
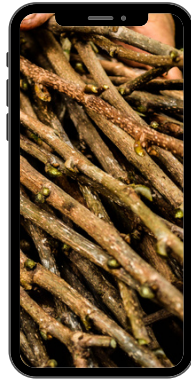
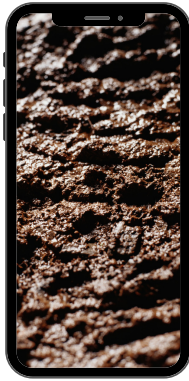


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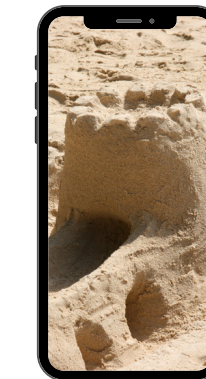
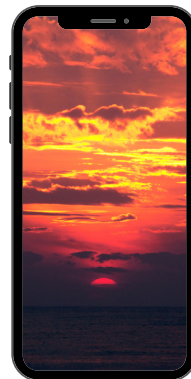
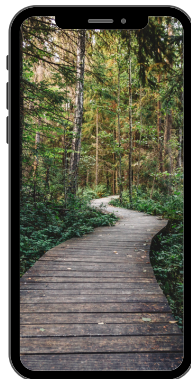
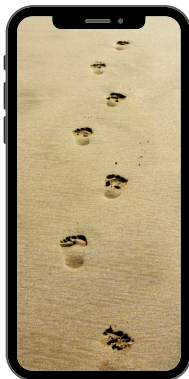
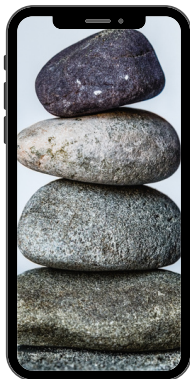
July

Nature Photo Challenge

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



- | | | | | | |
|----|--------|----|-------------|----|----------|
| 1 | Water | 11 | Mushroom | 21 | Red |
| 2 | Purple | 12 | Sunset | 22 | Hidden |
| 3 | Soft | 13 | Wind | 23 | Lonely |
| 4 | Broken | 14 | Yellow | 24 | Fragrant |
| 5 | Shadow | 15 | Smooth | 25 | Herbal |
| 6 | High | 16 | Print | 26 | Wet |
| 7 | Old | 17 | Seed | 27 | Fragile |
| 8 | Shiny | 18 | Sand | 28 | Balance |
| 9 | Insect | 19 | Happy | | |
| 10 | Many | 20 | Symmetrical | | |





July Poetry

Trees at Night
By Helene Johnson



Slim Sentinels
Stretching lacy arms
About a slumbrous moon;
Black quivering
Silhouettes,
Tremulous,
Stencilled on the petal
Of a bluebell;
Ink spluttered
On a robin's breast;
The jagged rent
Of mountains
Reflected in a
Stilly sleeping lake;
Fragile pinnacles
Of fairy castles;
Torn webs of shadows;
And
Printed 'gainst the sky—
The trembling beauty
Of an urgent pine.

Dewdrops
By Myra Viola Wilds



Watch the dewdrops in the morning,
Shake their little diamond heads,
Sparkling, flashing, ever moving,
From their silent little beds.

See the grass! Each blade is brightened,
Roots are strengthened by their stay;
Like the dewdrops, let us scatter
Gems of love along the way.



The Seedling
Paul Laurence Dunbar



As a quiet little seedling
Lay within its darksome bed,
To itself it fell a-talking,
And this is what it said:

"I am not so very robust,
But I'll do the best I can;"
And the seedling from that moment
Its work of life began.

So it pushed a little leaflet
Up into the light of day,
To examine the surroundings
And show the rest the way.

The leaflet liked the prospect,
So it called its brother, Stem;
Then two other leaflets heard it,
And quickly followed them.

To be sure, the haste and hurry
Made the seedling sweat and pant;
But almost before it knew it
It found itself a plant.

The sunshine poured upon it,
And the clouds they gave a shower;
And the little plant kept growing
Till it found itself a flower.

Little folks, be like the seedling,
Always do the best you can;
Every child must share life's labor
Just as well as every man.

And the sun and showers will help you
Through the lonesome, struggling hours,
Till you raise to light and beauty
Virtue's fair, unfading flowers.

BLACK TRUMPET MUSHROOMS

(*Craterellus cornucopioides*)

By Daryl Hrdlicka



Black Trumpets (*Craterellus cornucopioides*) are very tasty treats!

They look like little trumpets or horns sticking out of the ground. The stem and cap are not separated, and they are usually black, but can also be brown or gray.

They grow in Europe, North America, and east Asia. They are found in mossy areas in forests, usually under trees with broad leaves. They are difficult to find because of their color (people say it's like finding black holes on the ground!).

They have a delicious taste and are prized by foragers. When dried, they taste a bit like black truffles and are sprinkled on dishes for flavor.



BLACK TRUMPET
(*Craterellus cornucopioides*)



CROWN-TIPPED CORAL

(*Artomyces pyxidatus*)

By Daryl Hrdlicka



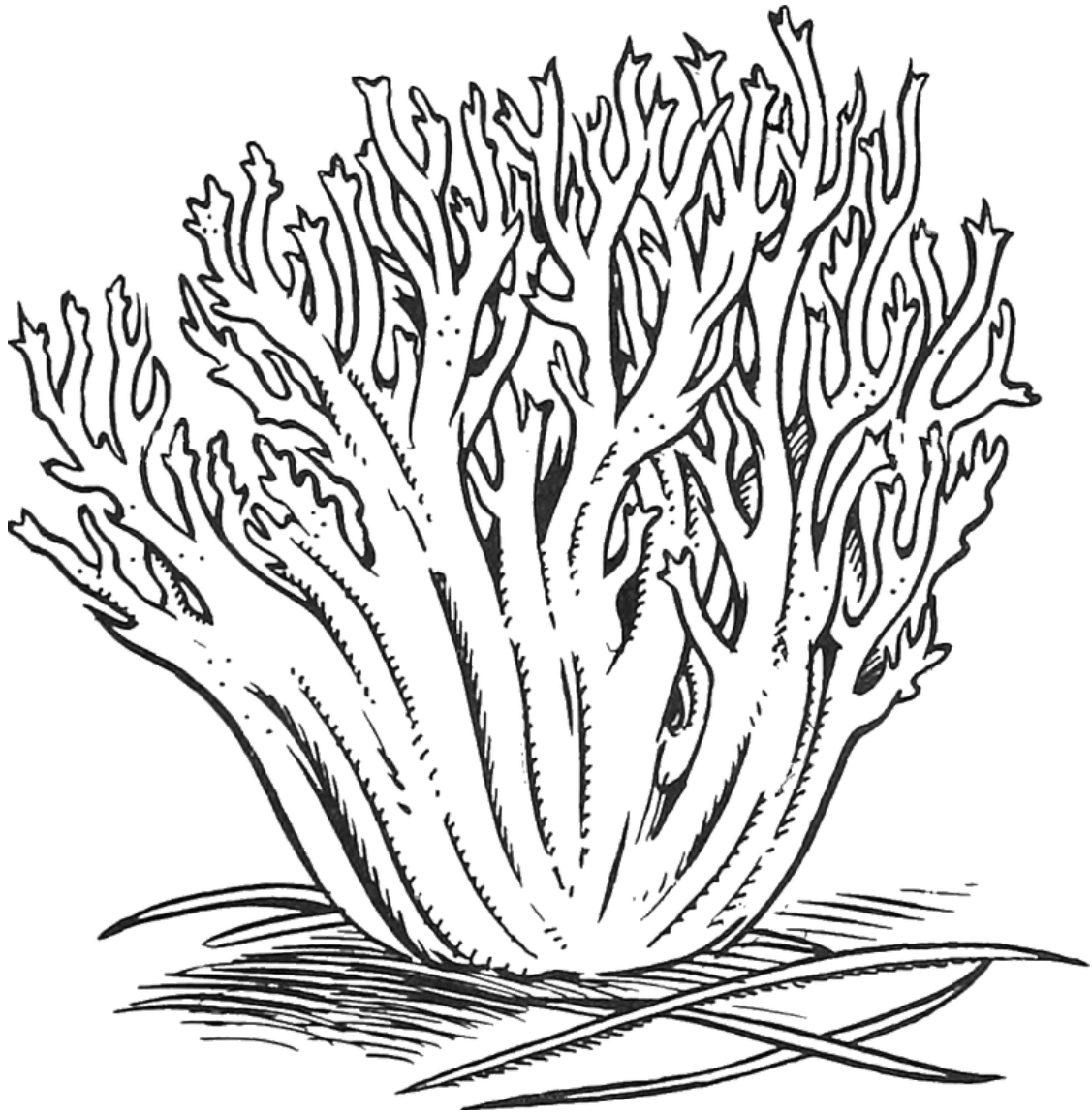
Crown-tipped Coral (*Artomyces pyxidatus*) is a very pretty fungus! It's called that because it looks like coral, and the tips are covered with tiny crowns. It can be just a few stalks or a large colony.

It's off-white to yellowish tan and grows on dead wood. It's found over much of eastern North America, and related species can be found all over the world. It grows directly on dead trees, and that's the easiest way to make sure it's not a lookalike.

It's got a tough texture, and shouldn't be eaten raw. It has a peppery taste.

CROWN-TIPPED CORAL

(*Artomyces pyxidatus*)

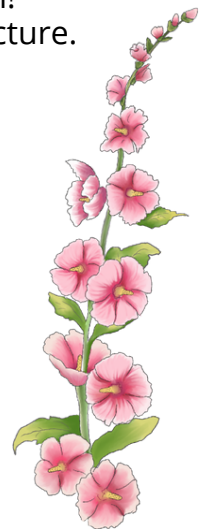


July 2023 Phenology Calendar

Keep track of all of the firsts in nature that you see this month!
Write in firsts and interesting nature observations and draw a picture.

Examples:

- First apples ripen
- First sphinx moth spotted
- First garden tomatoes harvested
- Fireflies spotted
- Temperature over 100° F
- Over 1" of rain
- Foraged wild raspberries
- Hummingbird spotted
- First hollyhock blooms
- Milkweeds in pod stage
- Turtle spotted sunning on log
- Double rainbow



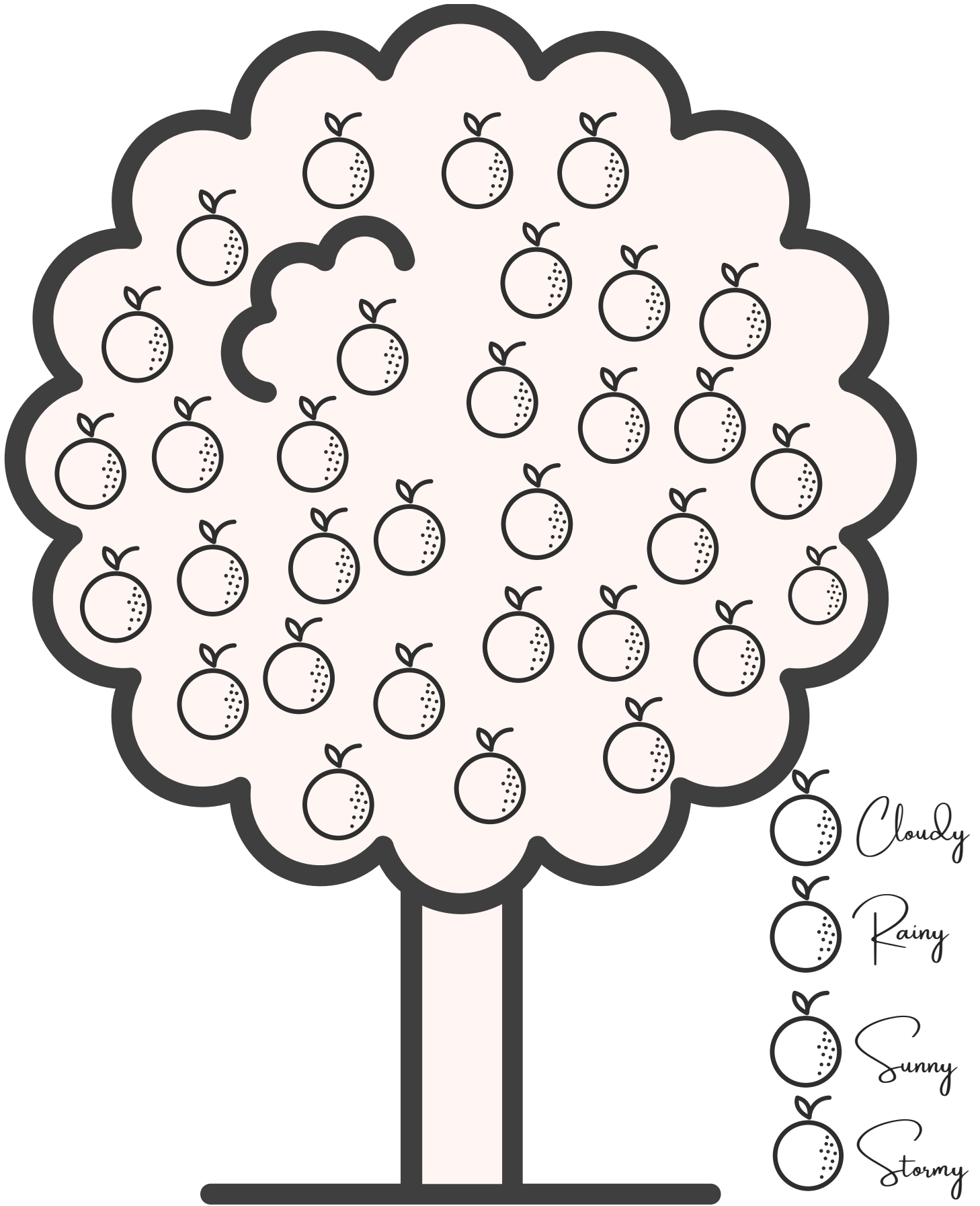
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

My Nature Journal

JULY



July Weather Tree



July Bird List

Birds spotted this month

July Animal List

Mammals, reptiles & other wildlife spotted this month

July 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.