



## Scientific or Naturalist Journaling



How do we learn about our natural environment? We **observe**.

Direct observation and careful description helps us compare species, habitats and different geographical regions.

John Muir, a famous naturalist and conservationist, wrote "When we try to pick out anything by itself we find that it is bound fast by a thousand invisible cords that cannot be broken, to everything in the universe."

Through journaling we hope to observe, record and better understand some of these relationships.



We can learn about plants (flora) and animals (fauna) by looking at some of the following factors and then recording our findings, complete with drawings or sketches, in our journals.

Examine:

1. Their appearance. How big are they? How are they shaped? What appendages, if any, do they have? What color are they?
2. How they relate to each other.
  - a. Do they cluster together or are they found alone?
  - b. Are large and small, young and full grown, samples found together?
  - c. Are they often found with one or two other specific types of plant or animal?
3. What is the water temperature like where they are found? The water chemistry?
4. Are they always found in the same type of habitat? (dry, wet, sandy, rocky)

You will be keeping a journal during Snapshot Day. Use the front and back of is sheet to record anything you feel is noteworthy or important. Take time to sketch, write or put down a few notes at each station or activity, not just the facts. Describe what you see, sketch things, and try and write down WHY you think something is of interest.