

A GOOD EXPLORER PLANS AHEAD

Make sure the place you plan to go is safe. Ask your adult, and make sure they say it's okay for you to go. Or take your adult with you!

Where are you going?

Tell your adult where you're going and when you'll be back
Plan your route — look at a map.
Is there a steep hill to climb or things to avoid, like a swamp?

Use the right gear

Wearing the right clothes and shoes keeps you safe and comfortable while you explore. Check the weather forecast before heading outside.

Don't touch insects or plants with your bare hands

Some insects and plants in Ontario have toxins that can cause a nasty reaction. Use the tools in the kit to collect anything you want to examine close up.



TIPS FOR EXPLORING

The best explorers leave no trace. Make sure you take everything home with you, especially garbage.

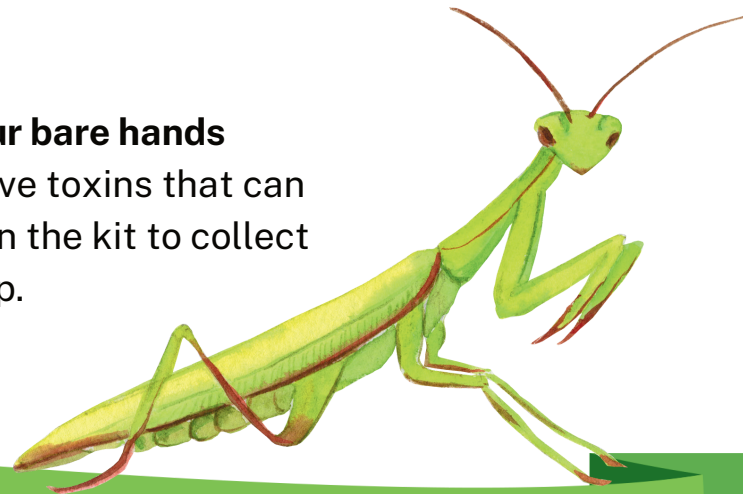


Take photos!

Use a camera or phone to photograph the places you go and the plants and animals you see. Sometimes you'll spot something in a photo later on that you didn't see at the time.

Look up! You might see a bird flying overhead or an animal hiding in a tree.

Look down! Small animals and insects crawl under leaves and brush, and rocks make great hiding places.



ACTIVITIES TO EXPLORE



Catch and Release

Catch a bug and put it in the Bug Box then see what it does. Put in some leaves, branches, or dirt. Don't keep it for too long, bugs have lots of work to do!

Who Can You Find?

Look for bugs - check under rocks, on trees, in the dirt. Use the books in the kit to figure out what kind of bug it is. Insects, arthropods, cretaceans, and arachnids are all different types of bugs you might find. How are they different from each other?



NATURE THOUGHTS

Share your finds and exploration tips with others! Make notes or drawings in the Nature Thoughts book so the next person to borrow the kit can read them.

Be sure to return this with the rest of the kit.



NATURE JOURNAL

The kit comes with a small journal for **you to keep!** It looks like this:



Use it to draw pictures of what you find, and make notes about it. You might want to record:

- What type of bug it is, what it's called
- Where you found it and what time of day
- What the weather was like
- It's size, colour, and markings
- Number of legs, eyes, wings, and antennae
- What it was doing - crawling, eating, flying

PLACES TO EXPLORE BUGS

The Library's pollinator gardens
A local park - Innisfil Beach Park, Centennial Park
A Provincial Park - borrow a pass from the Library!

Find more activities at

www.innisfilidealab.ca/explorers_backpacks