

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.

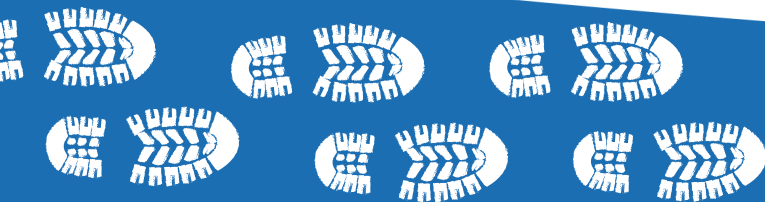


Take photos!

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



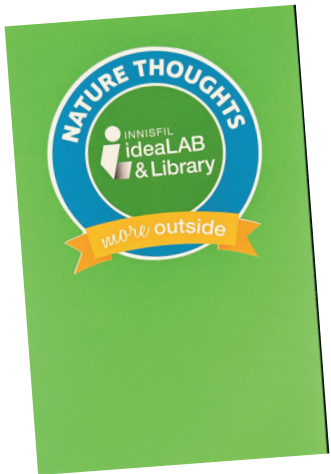
Water Bears!

There's a whole world of tiny creatures hiding in moss, tree bark, and on the forest floor. Try to find a tardigrade, also called a water bear. This microscopic organism likes to live in moss.

1. Find and collect some moss from 3-4 locations -- you only need about a loony-sized amount from each spot
2. Soak the moss in water in a small container for about two hours (use about 1/2 to 1 cup of water)
3. Squeeze the water out of the moss, then use the microscope from the kit to look at the water and search for tardigrades!

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 the things you see, and make notes about them. You might want to record:

- What type of tree, plant, fungus, flower, animal, or insect you see
- Where and when you saw it, what it was doing
- What the weather was like
- What did you smell and touch?

PLACES TO EXPLORE

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