



# Eco Learner

**D**on't you love the feel of the warm sun on your face? The sweet smell of a flower? The sounds of birds singing? Or the fun of walking on a trail? Nature gives you many gifts! Now learn some ways you can give back by protecting nature.

## Steps

1. Be prepared to protect nature before you go outdoors
2. Keep living things safe when you walk in nature
3. Learn how to protect nature from trash

## Purpose

When I've earned this badge, I'll have learned three ways to protect the environment when I go outdoors.



# Leave No Trace

It's fun to be outside and explore, but make sure you protect nature while you're out there. It's like being nature's invisible guest!

A special group called Leave No Trace created Seven Principles to help us keep nature safe.

- 1 Know before you go
- 2 Choose the right path
- 3 Trash your trash
- 4 Leave what you find
- 5 Be careful with fire
- 6 Respect wildlife
- 7 Be kind to other visitors

Talk about the list with an adult. What do you think each one means?

## What is nature?

When you walk outdoors, nature is the world around you! It's the plants, animals, insects, mountains, deserts, ocean, stars, trees, clouds, and everything else not made by people.



*Draw the things in nature you love the most.*



Every step has two choices.  
Do ONE choice to complete  
each step. Inspired?  
Do more!

## STEP

# 1 Be prepared to protect nature before you go outdoors

Girl Scouts know it's important to be prepared! When you go outdoors, take water and maybe a snack. Wear sunscreen and dress in layers. (That means you can take layers off if you are too hot, or add them if you are too cold.) Find out what kind of plants and wildlife you may see and how to treat them. Be prepared to not only keep yourself safe, but keep nature safe, too!

### CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Have a “Be Prepared” show-and-tell.** When you go outside, there are some things you will want to bring, and some you'll want to leave at home. Gather items from around your house and make two piles. One is for “take outdoors” and one is for “leave behind.” Think of things like a toaster or a toy (leave behind) and water bottle, sunscreen, and bug spray (take outdoors). Then show an adult your two piles and have them guess what each is for.

**OR**

- ☐ **Play a wildlife game with your friends or family.** In some of the squares on the chart in this booklet, draw pictures of creatures you might find in your backyard or the park—like ants, birds, and worms. In other squares, draw pictures of wildlife you probably won't see near your home—like a lion or an elephant. Play a game with your family or friends by having them circle the pictures of things you are likely to see in your backyard and crossing out the ones you're not.

## Be Prepared Checklist

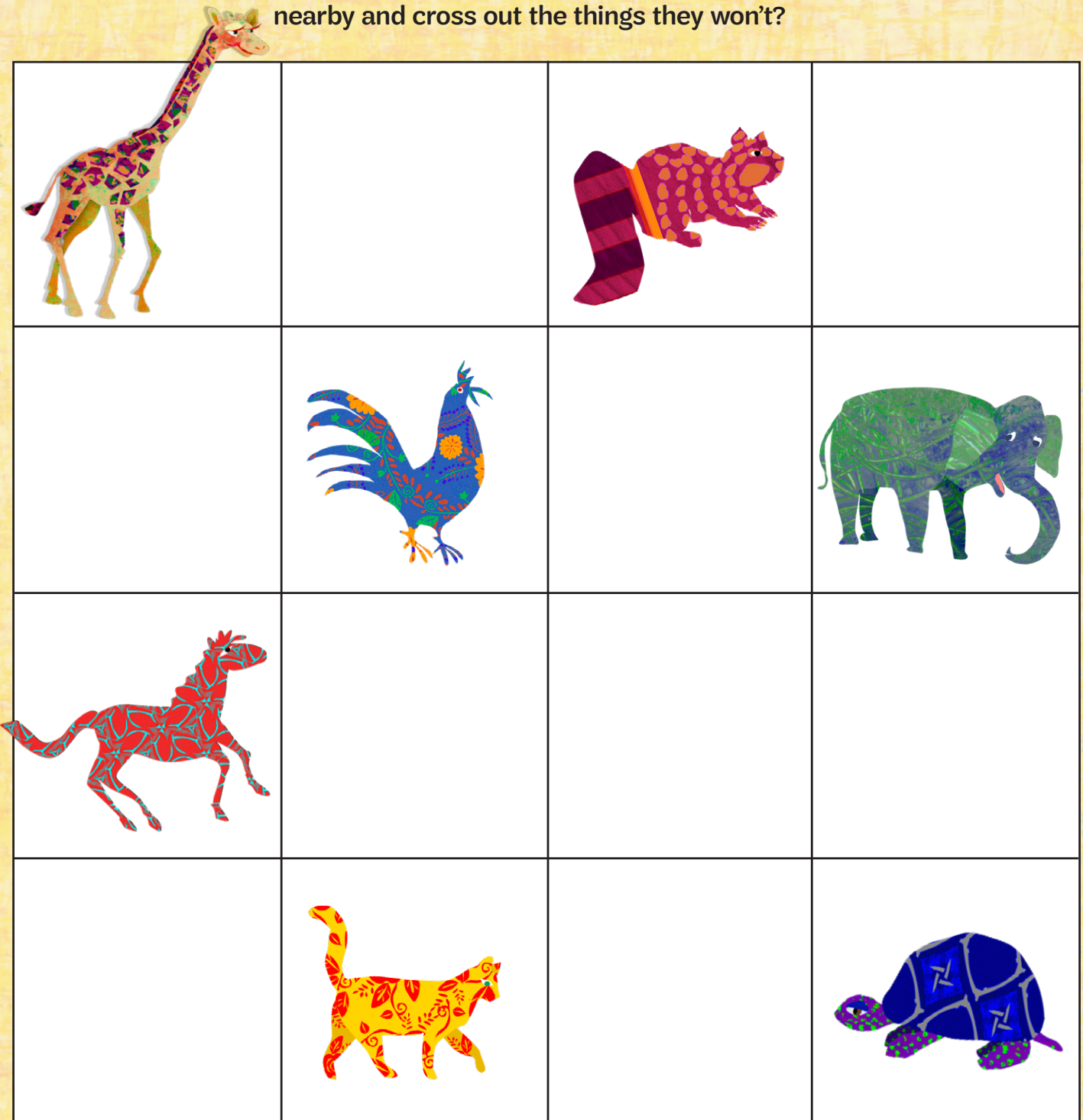
- ☐ I have water and a snack.
- ☐ I am wearing the right clothes for the weather.
- ☐ I know what kinds of plants and wildlife I might see.





# Play a Wildlife Game

Fill in the board by drawing pictures of wildlife in the empty squares. Draw some living things you might see near your home and some that live far away. Then have a family member or friend look at the board. Can they circle the things they might see nearby and cross out the things they won't?





## STEP

# 2 Keep living things safe when you walk in nature

When you walk on a trail, stay on the path. This simple rule is important because when you walk off a path, you might trample plants, flowers, insects, and other living things.

### CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Watch your step.** Go outdoors with an adult and walk along a dirt path. See what kinds of prints you make as you walk. What was on the path? Were there any plants, flowers, or insects? Why do you think it's important to stay on a path?

**For More FUN:** Wear different shoes and see which ones leave the biggest mark on a trail.

OR

- ☐ **Make a nature circle.** On a trail or sidewalk, lay a circle of string at least 3 feet long next to the walk or path. Look in the circle and count how many things you find that live there, like plants or bugs. What would be injured if you walked off a path?





# What Does Not Belong?





## STEP

# 3 Learn how to protect nature from trash

When you toss a snack wrapper on a trail, how long do you think it will last out there? If you guessed hundreds of years, you are right! Not only is trash a mess, it's also dangerous for plants and animals outdoors. Trash may damage plants and soil and cause health problems for creatures that eat it. Find out how you can make a difference.

### CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Play “What Does Not Belong.”** Look at the drawing on this page and put an X through the things that do not belong in nature. Why don't they belong? What would you do if you saw these things along a trail? Then draw your own pictures of things in nature and not in nature, and have a friend or family member guess what does not belong.

**OR**

- ☐ **Create a trash tale.** Come up with a story that tells why it's important to not leave trash in nature. Share your story with your friends and family. It could be a story about how a bear found food trash at a campsite and ate all of it. Or about a flower that was surrounded by trash and couldn't grow. If you want, you can draw pictures for your story.

**For More FUN:** Sit in a Daisy Circle with your friends and take turns sharing your “trash tales.”



## Smelly Trash

Many animals think human food and trash smells delicious! Human food and trash is not healthy for wildlife. When you go outdoors or on a camping trip, make sure to keep food and trash in containers that are animal proof, which means they can close shut. Or put food or trash in a secure bag and hang it from a tree so animals can't get at it. And never sleep with food in your tent! Furry critters may sniff it out and find it.





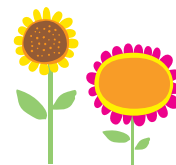
## Going on a Journey? Do some badge work along the way.

On the *Welcome to the Daisy Flower Garden* Journey, you go on a garden adventure with your Amazing Daisy Flower Friend. The steps in this badge will help you earn your Watering Can award as you care for your garden and nature.

**Now that I've earned this badge,  
I can give service by:**

**Teaching my friends and family how to care for nature outdoors.**

**I'm inspired to:**



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