

Red-tail Kids Club

RED-TAIL LAND CONSERVANCY, INC.



Hi, I'm Reddy Red-tail!

I am lucky because I get to spend most of my days soaring high in the sky. Sometimes I sit perched on a tree watching over the land where I live, and sometimes I fly low over the fields looking for food to eat.

Sadly most creatures like you get to spend very little time out in nature. This is sad indeed because nature needs you, and you need nature.

I want you to get outside and explore nature. The best way to learn about my friends and the world I live in is to be curious.

That means getting dirty, smelling things, touching things, and asking questions. I have some ideas that might help you to have fun adventures outdoors.

See you outside!



*Where do worms go in the Winter?
How does a snowflake form?
What constellations are in the Winter sky?
What animals hibernate in Indiana?*

Winter is the season of shorter days and longer nights. On these cold snowy days there is still a lot to explore outside. Dress warmly and head outside to your backyard or nearby woods and see what's happening now that it's Winter!

Many birds and other animals are active in Winter searching for food. You may supply extra food with bird feeders. Some year round birds to see are cardinals, blue jays, chickadees, and goldfinches. Listen and watch for the drumming of woodpeckers, a nuthatch walking head-first down on a tree or a hawk flying high overhead. You might see a special winter visitor; the Dark-eyed junco!

Animal tracks can be seen in snow or mud. Can you identify the handlike tracks of the raccoon or the heart-shaped tracks of deer? Watch also for the tracks of squirrels, rabbits, birds, or your dog! Follow the tracks to see where they go.

Now that leaves have fallen it's easier to see nests or dreys of tree squirrels high in the trees. Holes in the ground or trees provide shelter for other birds and animals. Check for piles of food called caches outside a hole at base of tree.

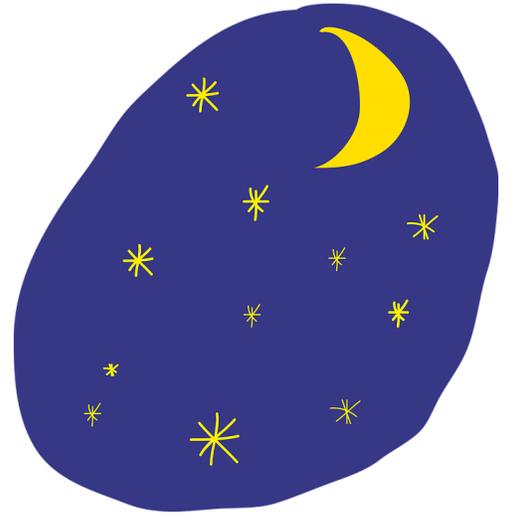
Most plants are resting or dormant now. Evergreen trees still remain green. If you dig under the snow or leaves you may find some spots of green plants like moss. On the branches of trees look for buds with tiny leaves or flowers inside waiting for Spring. In Winter, trees can be identified by their bark patterns, nuts on the ground, or leaves and berries left on branches. What trees do you find?

Reddy's Nature Journal

Winter is a great time to look at the night sky. The sky gets dark earlier and there are many clear nights when you can watch the moon. Go outside once a week for a month and look at the shape or phase of the moon. Draw it in your journal. How does it change each week? How many days does it take to complete all phases?

My friends at Red-tail Land Conservancy protect many wild places where you can explore nature. They also have free nature journals you can take with you. Ask your parents to call the office and pick one up.

I hope to spy you out exploring nature soon.



🔍 Let's Explore

Hawks have very good eyes. This helps us spot food when we are flying high above the ground.

Try to spy these things as you explore the outdoors:

- A nibbled pine cone
- An icicle on a tree
- A black and white bird
- A colorful feather
- A leaf covered in ice
- A plant that is still green

What else can you find?

❤️ Caring for Nature

You can help take care of the land and my friends.

Scientists are doing important research to watch for changes in bird populations. You can become a Citizen Scientist and help collect data. Join in one of these projects and see how you can help scientists with their research.

Audubon.org The Christmas Bird Count
birdsleuth.org Great Backyard Bird Count
Feederwatch.org Project Feeder Watch

How else can you help?

😊 Just for Fun

There are lots of fun things to do outside in Winter.

Shake a snowy branch and take a snow shower.

Make an obstacle course in the snow. Take flashlights and go for a night time hike with your family.

Collect sticks and make a miniature forest.

Head back inside for some hot cocoa!

What is your favorite outdoor activity?



See ya' in the woods.

Visit www.fortheland.org to learn more about my friends at Red-tail Land Conservancy and how you can support their work to preserve natural places. You can find properties to visit, learn about upcoming events, and get involved helping to protect nature.