

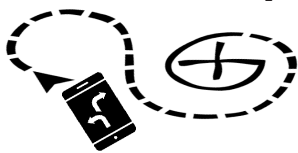
# Geocaching Treasure Trek

Are you ready to  
**EXPLORE?**



wpsu

# Let's go on a mission — a WPSU Treasure Trek mission to explore nature and find caches!



## What is geocaching?

Geocaching is a modern day, worldwide treasure hunt where participants can both hide and seek containers called geocaches. To find a geocache, visit a site like [Geocaching.com](http://Geocaching.com) to search for caches hidden in your area.



**Use this journal** to record your cache and all your exciting findings and document nature around you.

## What do I need to get started?

All you need is a smartphone with the free app from [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) or a GPS device, a pen and the WPSU Treasure Trek Journal. Additionally, you may choose to bring along a flashlight or headlamp, camera, water and snacks, sunscreen and bug spray.

## Why geocaching?

Geocaching as a family encourages children to explore their surroundings, use observational skills, and have an adventure. Critical and creative thinking skills are necessary when seeking a geocache.

## Step 1: Sign Up!

Sign up for the WPSU Learning Families email to receive weekly adventure sites across Centre, Blair, Huntington counties. Sign up at [wpsu.org/subscribe](http://wpsu.org/subscribe)



## Step 2: Complete our Survey!

These kits were generously supported by a grant from the PA Department of Education and your feedback will help us encourage future funding for initiatives like this. <https://wpsumm.wufoo.com/forms/q15jv7qw1progr8/>



## Step 3: Get Trekking!

Learn about plants, animals, and bugs as you complete the activity journal. Bring the journal and compass with you to explore along the way as you find the cache! Find more information at [learn.wpsu.org/treasuretrek](http://learn.wpsu.org/treasuretrek)





# Protecting Our Planet

It's never too early to start talking with your children about why it is a good idea to take care of nature. For the youngest children, learning about habitats is grounded in what children can experience with their senses. On your nature walks model the principle of "pack it in, pack it out." What else can they do when hiking to help take care of the natural environment?

I can help take care of  
the environment by...

By Scientist:

(name)



Find more games and activities at [pbskidsforparents.org](https://pbskidsforparents.org)

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Funded by



Corporation  
for Public  
Broadcasting

# My Geocaching Adventures

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather ☐ Sunny ☐ Rainy ☐ Cloudy ☐ Windy



I found a cache at: \_\_\_\_\_.

Pack in, pack out.  
Please take the  
sticker paper  
backing from this  
cache with you.

On my adventure,

I saw \_\_\_\_\_.

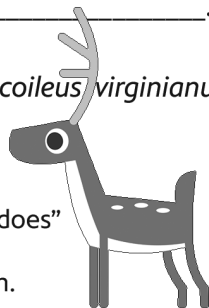
I heard \_\_\_\_\_.

I touched, felt, held \_\_\_\_\_.

I smelled \_\_\_\_\_.

## Pennsylvania Wildlife Highlight White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

- Deer are part of the Cervidae family, which includes elk, moose, caribou, and mule deer.
- Deer antler tissue is the fastest growing tissue known to man.
- Male deer, or “bucks” grow and shed their antlers; females, or “does” can grow antlers, but rarely do.
- A jumping deer is capable of clearing obstacles up to 9 feet high.
- Air-filled guard hairs enable them to swim easily.



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather ☐ Sunny ☐ Rainy ☐ Cloudy ☐ Windy



I found a cache at: \_\_\_\_\_.

Pack in, pack out.  
Please take the  
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backing from this  
cache with you.

On my adventure,

I saw \_\_\_\_\_.

I heard \_\_\_\_\_.

I touched, felt, held \_\_\_\_\_.

I smelled \_\_\_\_\_.

## Pennsylvania Wildlife Highlight Gray Squirrel (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

- The gray, fox, red, and flying squirrel are native to Pennsylvania.
- A squirrel's tail is used for balance and makes up half of their overall length.
- They sound warning barks and assorted “chucks.”
- Grays build leaf nests in trees in summer and fall and tree dens in winter.
- They eat acorns, nuts, berries, mushrooms, pine seeds, dogwood, wild cherry, and black gum fruits. Squirrels are active year-round.



# My Geocaching Adventures

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather ☐ Sunny ☐ Rainy ☐ Cloudy ☐ Windy

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On my adventure,

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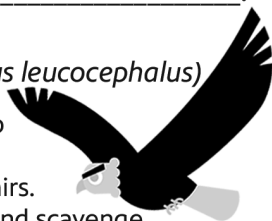
I heard \_\_\_\_\_.

I touched, felt, held \_\_\_\_\_.

I smelled \_\_\_\_\_.

## Pennsylvania Wildlife Highlight Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

- Bald eagles are among the largest birds of prey, weighing up to 14 pounds with a seven-foot wingspan
- Pennsylvania's nesting population number more than 270 pairs.
- Bald eagles are found around water where they catch fish and scavenge.
- Their large, sharp talons and large beaks help them catch and eat their prey.
- Their brown head and tail feathers are replaced with white ones when they turn 5.



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather ☐ Sunny ☐ Rainy ☐ Cloudy ☐ Windy

I found a cache at: \_\_\_\_\_.



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Please take the  
sticker paper  
backing from this  
cache with you.

On my adventure,

I saw \_\_\_\_\_.

I heard \_\_\_\_\_.

I touched, felt, held \_\_\_\_\_.

I smelled \_\_\_\_\_.

## Pennsylvania Wildlife Highlight River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*)

- Otters are extremely curious and playful and hard to find.
- They can weigh up to 25 pounds, grow 30–40 inches in length, plus a 12- to 15-inch tail they use for swimming and balance.
- The river otter's feet are wide and webbed between the toes. They use their back legs for swimming and front paws for holding food.
- Otters eat fish, frogs, turtles, snails, mussels, crayfish, snakes, snake eggs, worms, insects, aquatic plants, roots, and, occasionally even birds and small mammals.



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On my adventure,

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I smelled \_\_\_\_\_.

## Pennsylvania Wildlife Highlight Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)

- The Beaver is North America's largest rodent.
- Beavers use branches, mud and rocks to build dams and lodges on streams and creeks, and along the edges of lakes and rivers.
- They can weigh 40–60 pounds and grow up to 40" long.
- A beaver's front teeth never stop growing and are self-sharpening.
- Their scaly, leathery tail is used as a propeller and a rudder in the water.



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I smelled \_\_\_\_\_.

## Pennsylvania Wildlife Highlight Rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

- Rabbits are herbivores which means they eat leaves, herbs, clover, fallen fruit, and garden vegetables.
- Their hind legs are longer than their front legs, making it "hop."
- When being chased, they run in a zigzag pattern and can even swim if necessary.
- A keen sense of smell, hearing, and set-back eyes help them to detect predators.
- Their preferred habitat includes swamps, thickets, briar patches, and brush.



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I smelled \_\_\_\_\_.

## Pennsylvania Wildlife Highlight Mouse (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

- Pennsylvania has two native species of mice, four voles, a bog lemming, two types of jumping mouse, and 2 European species.
- Their chisel-shaped upper jaw and lower jaw incisor teeth never stop growing.
- Mice eat nuts, seeds, fruits, leaves, and grasses, but will also eat insects, larvae, snails, slugs, spiders, and, in some cases, bird eggs!



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather ☐ Sunny ☐ Rainy ☐ Cloudy ☐ Windy



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I smelled \_\_\_\_\_.

## Pennsylvania Wildlife Highlight Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)

- *Procyon* means “before dog,” *lotor* refers to the species’ habit of dunking food in water before eating it. Wild raccoons do not dunk their food.
- Raccoons are omnivorous, meaning they eat both vegetable and animal matter.
- They are nocturnal and spend most of daylight in trees, but will sun themselves on nice days.



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On my adventure,

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I heard \_\_\_\_\_.

I touched, felt, held \_\_\_\_\_.

I smelled \_\_\_\_\_.

## Pennsylvania Wildlife Highlight Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

- Foxes belong to the same family as the dog, coyote and wolf.
- Male foxes are called "dogs" foxes and females "vixens."
- Foxes are swift runners and can swim if necessary.
- They have an extremely sharp senses of sight, smell and hearing and can even hear a mouse squeal from about 150 feet away!
- They are both scavengers and hunters, eating small mammals and eggs.



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather ☐ Sunny ☐ Rainy ☐ Cloudy ☐ Windy



I found a cache at: \_\_\_\_\_.

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Please take the  
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backing from this  
cache with you.

On my adventure,

I saw \_\_\_\_\_.

I heard \_\_\_\_\_.

I touched, felt, held \_\_\_\_\_.

I smelled \_\_\_\_\_.

## Pennsylvania Wildlife Highlight Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)

- A black bear can weigh 140 to 400 or more pounds and measure up to 85" in length from head to tail.
- Each of their feet has five toes and a curved claw.
- Bears walk in a slow, shuffling manner, but can sprint up to 30 mph!
- They find food mainly by scent and are mostly vegetarian. They will also eat small mammals, eggs, amphibians and reptiles.
- Bears climb and swim well, have a great sense of smell, but have poor eyesite.



# My Geocaching Adventures

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather ☐ Sunny ☐ Rainy ☐ Cloudy ☐ Windy



I found a cache at: \_\_\_\_\_.

On my adventure,

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I heard \_\_\_\_\_.

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I smelled \_\_\_\_\_.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather ☐ Sunny ☐ Rainy ☐ Cloudy ☐ Windy



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I smelled \_\_\_\_\_.



# Make Leaf and Bark Rubbings



## What to Do:

**1. Find some trees:** Take some blank paper, masking tape (optional), and crayons outside. Look for several trees with different types of bark and leaves.

**2. Feel the bark:** Close your eyes and feel the bark of the trees. How does it feel? Which one is the smoothest? The roughest?

**3. Make a bark rubbing:** Use tape to hold a piece of paper on the trunk or hold the paper tightly. Lightly rub a crayon horizontally over the surface of the paper on the bark, just hard enough so that the bark's texture shows on the paper. Do this to other trees and compare the rubbings.

**4. Make a leaf rubbing:** Collect some leaves from different trees. Close your eyes and feel the leaves. How do they feel? Make leaf rubbings by putting the leaf on a piece of cardboard or a clipboard, covering it with the paper, and rubbing the crayon over it.

**5. Make a matching game:** Once you've made several leaf and bark rubbings, play a matching game with them. Mix them up and see if you can figure out which tree each leaf and bark rubbing came from.

## What You Need:

- Trees
- Plain white paper
- Crayons with label removed
- Masking tape (optional)
- Cardboard or clipboard
- Paper bag for collecting leaves



Find more games and activities at [pbskids.org/naturecat](https://pbskids.org/naturecat)



# Make Leaf and Bark Rubbings

**Make your leaf and bark rubbings here.**

**Find more games and activities at [pbskids.org/naturecat](https://pbskids.org/naturecat)**

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# Is it an insect?

An insect is a special kind of bug (not all bugs are insects). An insect has to have:

- 2 antennae
- 6 legs
- 3 body parts (head, thorax, abdomen)

An ant is an insect (it has 6 legs), but a spider is not (it has 8 legs).

Draw your own insect in the box.

## My Insects



\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of insect

Number of legs .....



Number of body parts.....



Number of antennae .....



Is it an insect?

Yes ☐

No ☐





# What Do You Hear?

Listen and observe the sounds you hear on a nature walk.

## Family Talk

- Name the sounds you hear and describe them.

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- Are they loud sounds? Quiet sounds?

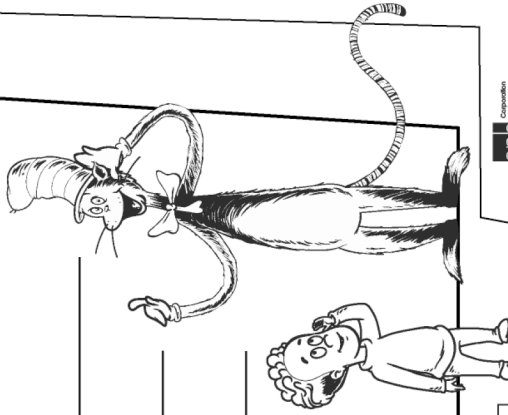
- Are they high sounds? Low sounds?

- Have you heard any of these sounds before?

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Find more games and activities at [pbskidsforparents.org](http://pbskidsforparents.org)








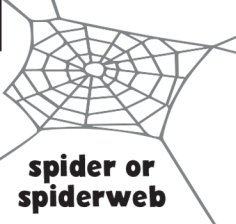
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# Scavenger Hunt

As you are on your geocaching adventure check the boxes below every time you find an object or draw it in one of the empty boxes.



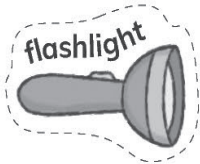
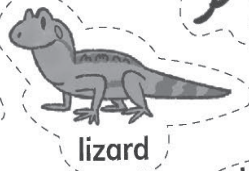
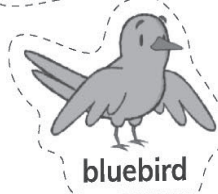
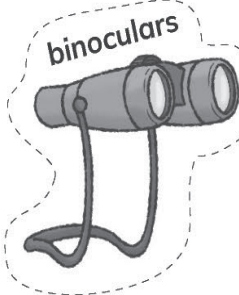
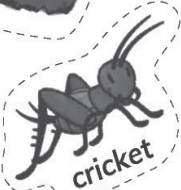
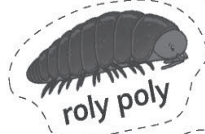
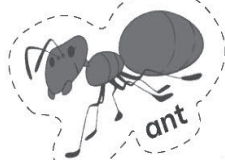
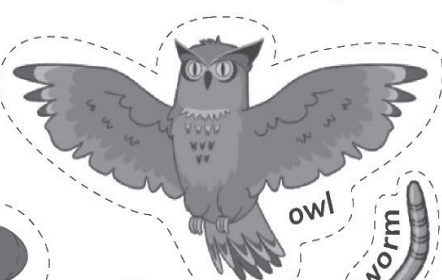
 <b>flower</b>	<b>something that smells good</b>	 <b>bug</b>
<b>something beautiful</b>	 <b>bird</b>	<b>something soft</b>
 <b>flying insect</b>	 <b>something rough</b>	<b>leaf</b>
<b>something prickly</b>	<b>rock</b>	 <b>spider or spiderweb</b>

Find more games and activities at [pbskidsforparents.org](https://pbskidsforparents.org)



## Finding Animals: Storytelling Set

Color and cut the pictures to create your own storytelling (and re-telling) set. Take Elinor and her friends on brand new adventures and investigations!



Find more games and activities at [pbskidsforparents.org](https://pbskidsforparents.org)



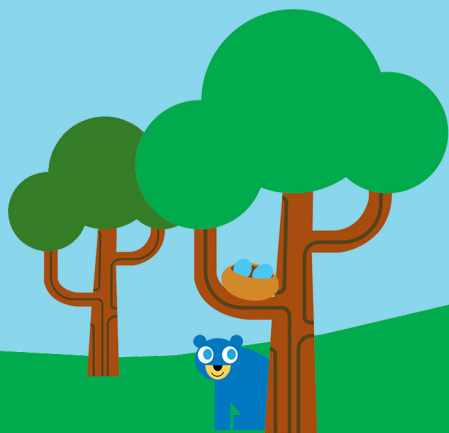
# Eventapalooza is Back!

We can't wait to see all of the PBS  
KIDS at our first in-person event  
since March 2020!

**Save the date!**

**Sunday, October 24**

at the Keiko Miwa Ross WPSU  
Production Studio  
Innovation Park, State College



Watch our event page in  
September for registration  
and details. [wpsu.org/events](https://wpsu.org/events)

