



Bringing Nature into the Classroom

Nature Lab | February 2024



About Us



The Nature Conservancy is a global environmental nonprofit working to create a world where people and nature can thrive.



70+

We impact conservation in over 70 countries and territories.



100+

We operate more than 100 marine conservation projects.



400+

We have more than 400 scientists on staff.



125M+

We have protected more than 125 million acres of land.

Ximena Marquez

Associate Director of Education & Outreach, The Nature Conservancy

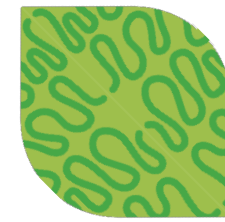
Nelson Melendez

Specialist, Education & Outreach, The Nature Conservancy

Objectives

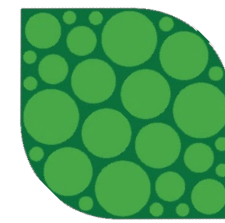
1. Provide an overview of TNC's Youth Engagement Program
2. Experience Nature Lab's platform through a curriculum example
3. Learn how we stay connected with our educator audience
4. Learn about few of our most recent innovations

Youth Engagement: Our Core Programs



INFORM

young people around the world through content, curriculum, videos and virtual field trips on Nature Lab.



CONNECT

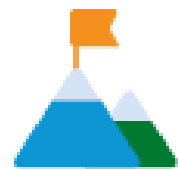
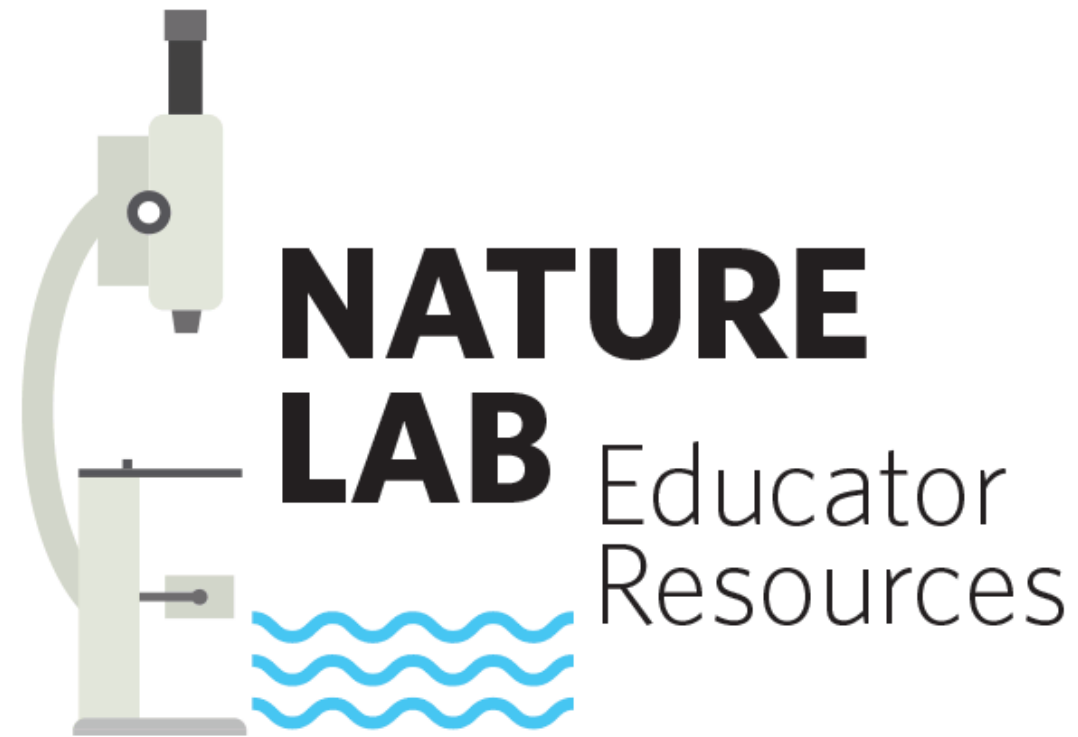
TNC's global youth and community outreach staff to drive collaboration, provide funding and partnership opportunities, and support anti-racist programming.



ELEVATE

the voices of young activists and support their access to and engagement in critical conversations around environmentalism, conservation and climate change.





The Mission

The goal of Nature Lab is to help students from kindergarten through high school — and those educating them — experience the wonder of nature, learn about places and people around the world, and see how they can take action for the challenges facing the planet.



The Modules

Each Nature Lab module incorporates global conservation themes and is aligned with U.S education standards. High-quality videos, interviews with renowned scientists, hands-on activities and easy-to-use learning guides are all part of the platform.

-  Climate Change
-  Wildfires
-  Oceans
-  Healthy Cities
-  Water Security



The Reach

Nature Lab currently reaches **4.5 million** users each year.



Why it Works

86%* of teachers in the United States think climate change should be taught in school, but 55% of them do not teach or talk to their students about it. In addition, 78% of Americans support schools teaching about climate change. Nature Lab is designed to meet this need.

* 2019 Ipsos/NPR poll

A young girl with long brown hair is looking through a pair of black binoculars. The binoculars are held up to her eyes, and the lenses show a reflection of a natural landscape with trees and a body of water. She is wearing a red fabric strap with black buckles. The background is a soft-focus green field.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Nature Lab

Nature Lab is The Nature Conservancy's youth curriculum platform.

Nature Lab Platform

Explore Our Youth Curriculum

Access resources aligned to The Nature Conservancy's research and designed specifically for a young audience and classroom use.



Experiencing Nature in the Digital Age

Less Harm on the Farm: Regenerative Agriculture

Food is more than something we eat to survive; it's a part of how we thrive. Learn how regenerative agriculture can help us feed a growing population while restoring nature. Farmers and scientists show us how, together, we can turn one of today's biggest challenges into our greatest opportunity: a food system that goes beyond sustainability and creates positive growth for communities and the planet.

[DOWNLOAD TEACHING GUIDE](#)

[LEARN MORE WITH KAHOOT](#)



Classroom Resources

Teacher's Guides



Less Harm on the Farm: Regenerative Agriculture TEACHER'S GUIDE

Grades: 6-12

Subjects: Science and Environmental Science

Purpose: Students will be immersed in a comprehensive exploration of regenerative agriculture; a sustainable farming approach designed to restore and enhance the natural environment. They will gain insights into regenerative farming techniques, including soil health management, biodiversity preservation, and reduced chemical usage. By engaging with informative videos and hands-on activities, students will discover the potential of regenerative agriculture to address environmental challenges and contribute to a healthier planet.

Essential Question: How can regenerative agriculture transform farming practices, support environmental conservation, and foster a more sustainable future?

Supporting Questions:

1. How does regenerative agriculture promote soil health and enhance the natural ecosystem?
2. What are the ecological benefits of regenerative farming, and how do they contribute to the conservation of biodiversity?
3. How can regenerative agriculture serve as a more sustainable solution for food production while supporting both the environment and local communities?

Time Frame: Two (2) 50-minute sessions, or two block schedule sessions. For a block schedule, we suggest that part 1 and 2 can serve as a day one in a block schedule. Part 3 and 4 can serve as a day 2 in a block schedule.

Our guides are:

- Suitable for K-12 formal and informal educators
 - Focused on environmental science concepts
- Standards-based through NGSS and Common Core Standards
 - Adaptable across grade levels
- Based on digital resources for accessibility

Connecting with Educators

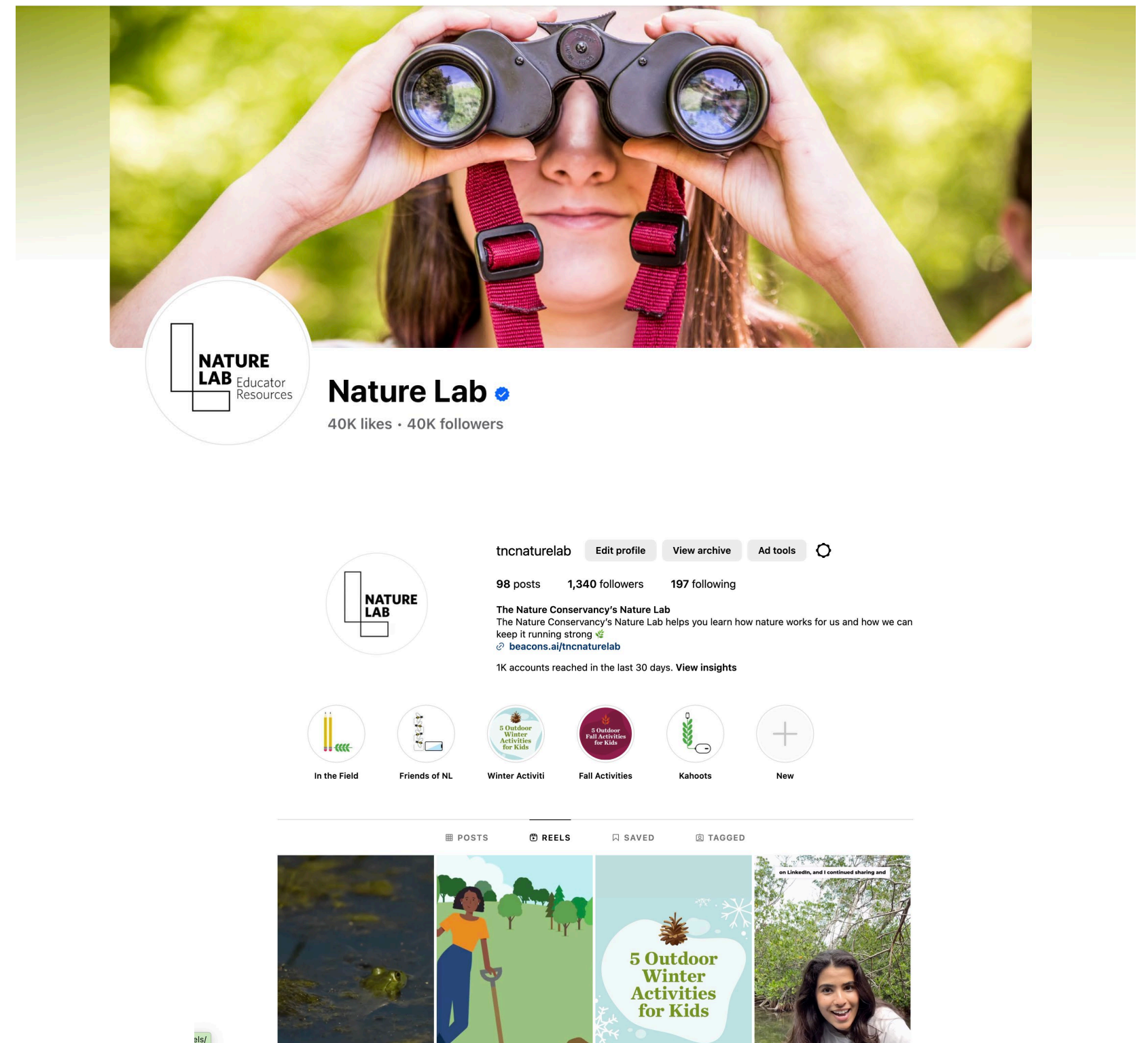
Nature Lab Newsletter



Back to School with Nature Lab

As you kick off the new school year, we're thrilled to share nature-focused resources. Take your students on a virtual field trip to the world's largest coastal rainforest and discover the wonders of the Emerald Edge. Explore various U.S. public lands and lead a class discussion on their significance. Spark discussions on restorative food production with a [new Kahoot! activity](#) on regenerative food systems. Plus, exciting news for after-school professionals: Nature Lab and [Mizzen by Mott](#) have joined forces to provide free interactive conservation experiences for youth in after-school programs.

Social Media Platforms

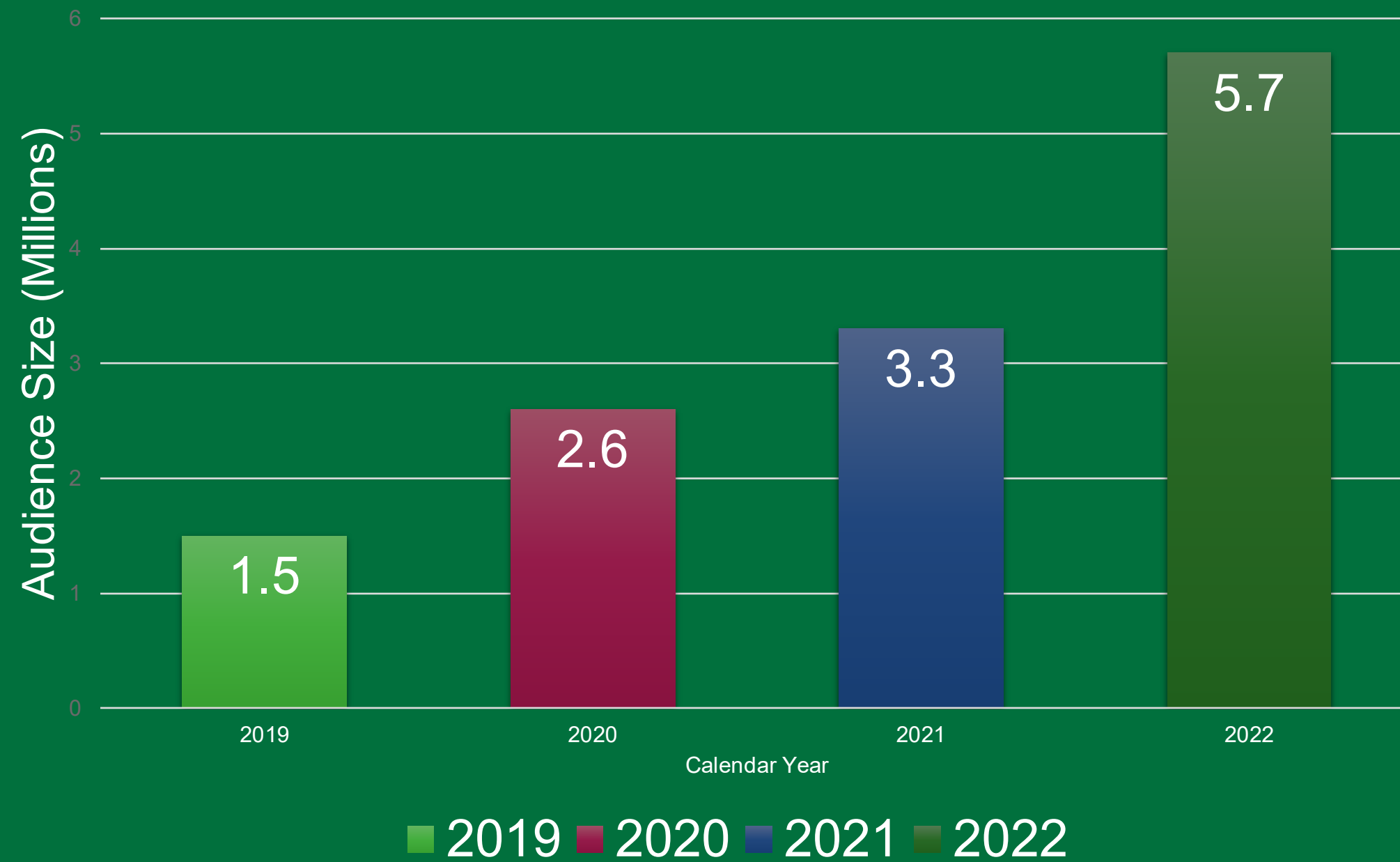




Nature Lab: How It's Going

Gold Prize Winner of the Anthem Award
Sustainability, Environment, and Climate Category

Year-over-Year Audience Reach



Nature Lab: Powered by Partnership



Nature Lab: Innovations



Make Leaf Prints

Embark on a leafy adventure! Collect leaves of various shapes, sizes, and colors on your next walk or hike. Arrange them out on a piece of paper and then cover them with another sheet. Unwrap a crayon, use its side, and gently rub over the top sheet. Watch your leaf print emerge! Get creative, rearrange the leaves for playful patterns, and experiment with a burst of colors!

Turn your leaf prints into notecards, placemats or giftwrap!



Plan a Cozy Storytime

Check out books like 'The Lorax' by Dr. Seuss, 'The Curious Garden' by Peter Brown, or 'A Tree Is Nice' by Janice May Udry. Find a cozy spot outdoors or by a window, and let the tales come alive with your voice!

What's the special message about our bond with nature that your chosen book tells?

Re-tell the story to someone else or write a poem or story of your own that expresses the theme of the book.



Take a Sunset Sensory Walk

Put on a jacket and see your neighborhood or community in a whole new way—on a sunset walk!

Find the sun in the sky and walk toward it. What do you observe as time passes? What changes do you hear, feel, or smell? Talk about the colors you see—and how they change as you walk. Where else do you see those colors in nature?

When you head back indoors, use crayons, colored pencils or watercolor paints on paper to capture the colors you observed, or describe your sensory walk to someone else.



Go for the Glow

Outdoor fun can happen safely in the dark! Head to your backyard or a familiar outdoor space for some glow-y fun!

- ★ Bring a ball or Frisbee that glows in the dark and play catch!
- ★ Hide a glow-in-the-dark toy in a not-too-hard spot! – and see if your partner can find it!
- ★ Grab some flashlights—and play tag! Try to escape each other, but if the light shines on you, you're out!

CLIMATE

WEATHER





Thank You!

Any Questions?

Contact us at:

Nelson Melendez – Nelson.melendez@tnc.org

Ximena Marquez – Ximena.marquez@tnc.org