

How to be an ecoEXPLORER

ecoEXPLORERS can earn between one and five points for each photo shared.

Visit:

- a HotSpot to make observations.
- a GetSpot to pick up your prize.
- a LoanSpot to borrow equipment and field tools.
- a MegaSpot to pick up a map for tips on where to find wildlife.

Visit www.ecoexplore.net to view current Field Season dates and a list of locations.

1
point

Upload a photo of an observation to your ecoEXPLORE account, noting where, when and what you found to earn one point.

BONUS
points

- Share an observation in the current Field Season.
- Make your share at an ecoEXPLORE HotSpot.
- Identify the correct plant or animal species.
- A clear photo that helps scientists confirm your ID.

I, _____
your name

pledge to post my photo observations on the ecoEXPLORE website to help scientists study wildlife.

How to Take a Great Photo



1 Get as close as possible while keeping the whole subject in frame.

2 Make sure the subject is in focus.

3 Try to get as many identifiable features (colors, patterns, shapes, etc...) in your shot as possible.



SHARE YOUR PHOTOS & EARN PRIZES!

Visit ecoEXPLORE.net to register, locate HotSpots for nature in your area, and find out where to receive prizes!

ecoEXPLORE is an initiative of
The NORTH CAROLINA ARBORETUM
AN AFFILIATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

Get FREE prizes!

when you
TRACK your hike at
kidsinparks.com



Visit our website to find more TRACK Trail™ adventures near you!

Thanks for joining us on the trail today!

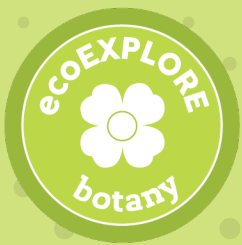
Kids in Parks Founding Partners



LET'S EXPLORE!



Scientists Need Your Help!
Join ecoEXPLORE and use this brochure to share nature observations with real scientists.



Botany is the study of plants. Plants are living organisms that create their own energy using sunlight, water and carbon dioxide. Plants include towering trees, breathtakingly beautiful flowers and curious insect-eaters such as the Venus flytrap (native only to North Carolina!).

Our friends at ecoEXPLORE love to get kids exploring outside just like us. Use this brochure and a camera to help you earn your first badge!



Photography Pro-tips

Here are some things to focus on to make your photos more helpful to scientists.

Leaf	Bark	Bud	Flower	Fruit

Explorer Checklist

Remember to record info about your discoveries.

Take a photo! check the box

Species: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

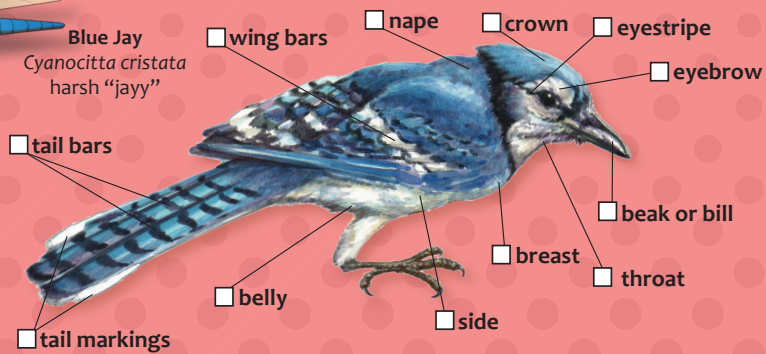
Location: _____



Ornithology is the study of birds. Birds are covered with feathers, are warm-blooded and lay hard-shelled eggs. Many North Carolina birds migrate to warmer, southern climates in the winter. The state bird of North Carolina is the northern cardinal.



Field Marks



Blue Jay
Cyanocitta cristata
harsh "javy"

Note any significant field mark sizes, shapes, and colors.

Explorer Checklist

Remember to record info about your discoveries.

Take a photo! check the box

Species: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

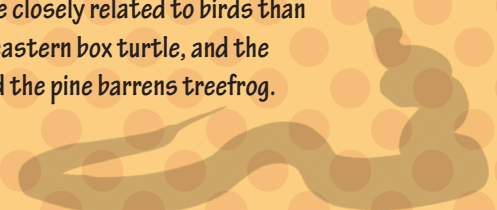
Location: _____



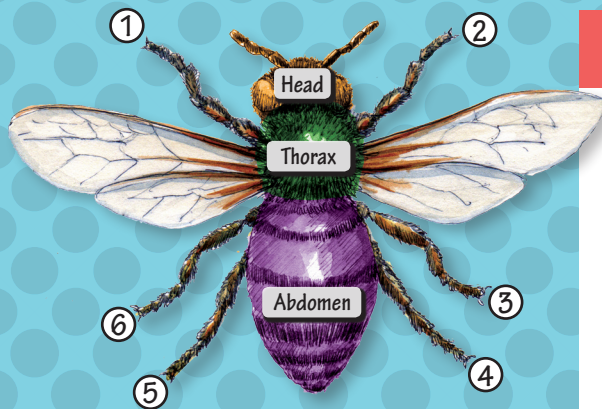
Entomology is the study of insects. Insects are arthropods, a type of animal without a backbone but with jointed legs and a segmented body. With six legs and three main body parts, insects are different than other arthropods like centipedes and spiders. The state insect of North Carolina is the honeybee, and the state butterfly is the tiger swallowtail.



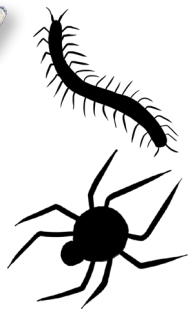
Herpetology is the study of amphibians and reptiles. These are all cold-blooded, but there are many important differences between amphibians and reptiles – in fact reptiles are more closely related to birds than amphibians. North Carolina's state reptile is the eastern box turtle, and the state amphibians are the marbled salamander and the pine barrens treefrog.



What Makes an Insect an Insect?



NOT Insects



Explorer Checklist

Remember to record info about your discoveries.

Take a photo! check the box

Species: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Reptile or Amphibian?

Reptiles are covered with scales and do not go through metamorphosis	Amphibians have soft skin and usually go through a metamorphosis

Explorer Checklist

Remember to record info about your discoveries.

Take a photo! check the box

Species: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____