

# New Opportunities, New Challenges

## Activity 11.2: Aldo Leopold Nature Writing Journal

### Teacher Materials

*Preparation/Organization* For this activity, you will need copies of Student Pages 1–3 for each student or small group. If students wish to continue their journals, make extra photocopies of both the data page and the sketch page. You can organize the activity for either individual students or small groups. The amount of supervision needed will depend upon the students themselves and how well they manage the activity. For best results, you might begin by supervising the students and then gradually withdraw your management and let them work on their own.

#### *Procedure*

1. Briefly acquaint students with the life and influence of Aldo Leopold, using the link to the Aldo Leopold Nature Center web site to provide facts, illustrations, and conversation points. (See <http://www.naturenet.com/alnc/leopoldlinks.htm> to learn more about Aldo Leopold's life and work; see the Earth Alive web site at <http://www.naturenet.com/earthalive/nnhome.asp> for more information about phenology.)
2. Talk with students about possible subjects for phenology journals. Remind students that they can observe places, creatures, or even weather phenomena. Emphasize that it is important to pay careful attention to what students see, hear, touch, and smell. Also emphasize that students need to record their observations with care, not leaving out anything important, not adding details that they don't really observe, and using accurate words and phrases to describe their observations.
3. When students have selected their observation subjects, distribute copies of the student pages. Discuss the cover page (Student Page 1) and direct students as they write in their names and school. Then discuss the items on the next two sheets, helping students understand what is asked for on each line of Student Page 2. Point out the box on Student Page 3, explaining that this is where they are to sketch their observations. Then have students complete the pages.
4. After students complete their pages and have made their sketches, students can compare and contrast their observations with those of others.

#### *Answers*

Answers will vary. Check to make sure that students are thorough in recording their observations and that they have accurately recorded the details.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## My Nature Observations



“Keeping records enhances the pleasures of the search and also the change of finding meaning in these events.”

—Aldo Leopold

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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



Temperature: \_\_\_\_\_°F \_\_\_\_\_°C

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Sunny, cloudy, partly cloudy, etc.)

Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Today I saw \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Today I heard \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Today I touched \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Today I smelled \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Compare your observations with those of other students at  
[www.naturenet.com/alnc](http://www.naturenet.com/alnc).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sketch your observations here.

