

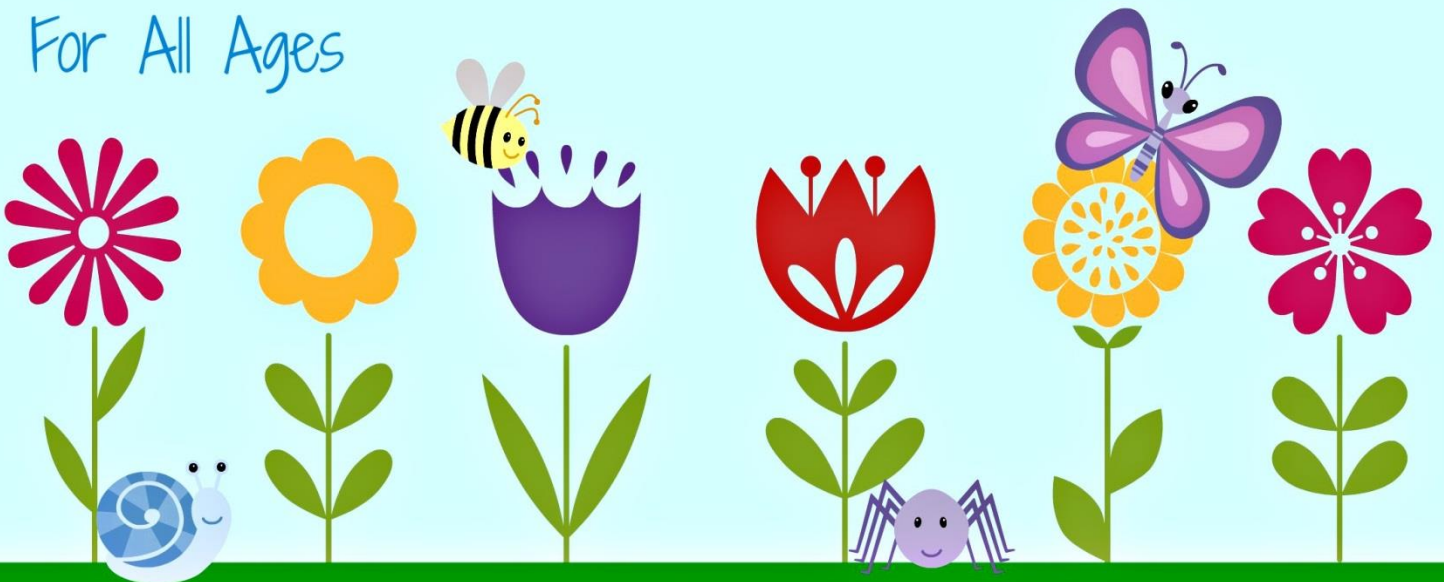


100+  
Easy and Fun

# Creative Nature Walks

Cindy West, M.A. Ed.

For All Ages



Shining Dawn Books

100+ Easy and Fun

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# Creative Nature Walks

Way too many people tell me nature study is boring. It doesn't have to be! Not only can it be exciting, but you can get in loads of learning – all while having fun and getting fresh air, sunshine and exercise. That's what this book is about – fun and learning.

I've written more than 100 nature walk ideas to keep your entire crew focused and mission-oriented. All you have to do is pick one, spend just a minute or two reading the directions and then...GO! Short and simple, but jam-packed with an exciting and educational punch. Have fun!

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## 1, 2, 3 What Do I See?

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This walk not only encourages detailed observation, but counting or skip counting as well. Challenge your children to find things in nature that come in singles, twos, threes, fours, etc.

Extension Ideas:

- Make a picture chart showing the various items that you found for each number amount.
- Draw a graph showing the number of items found for each number amount.
- Create a counting picture book for preschoolers to read showing the items you found. The first page would represent the number one, the second page would represent the number two, and so on.



## ABC's of Nature

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Choose a letter of the alphabet and search for nature items that begin with that letter.

Extension Ideas:

- Challenge your children to find one thing for each letter of the alphabet in the span of one walk.
- Keep a tally chart of each thing you find and which letter of the alphabet it begins with. Make a graph showing the final results.
- Write and illustrate a nature alphabet book.



## Adjectives Abound

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This walk helps children notice details and practice grammar at the same time. As you walk, rather than identifying the nature object, describe it with an adjective.

Example: When seeing a moss covered rock, you challenge everyone to say one adjective about the rock, like green, fuzzy, moist, or soft.

### Extension Ideas:

- Draw a picture of the object in your nature journal and write as many adjectives as you can to describe it.
- Use several of the adjectives to write a poem about the object in your nature journal.
- Each time someone in the family makes an interesting nature find, everyone pitches in to share an adjective about it. The twist...mom gets to decide what type of adjective everyone must use. For example, for the first nature find, you ask everyone to use a color adjective. At the second stop, you ask everyone to offer a texture adjective. At the third stop, everyone must share a feeling. Other types of adjectives might include: quantity, quality, action, smell, sound, size, shape, material, age, or opinion.





## All About the Bark

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Bark on a tree or shrub is very interesting. You can find insects, lichen, moss, fungi, holes, textures, scars and more. During this nature walk, you will focus only on the bark of one or more trees. You may choose to observe with the naked eye or take a magnifying glass or outdoor mini-microscope. Draw your findings in your nature journal.

Extension Ideas:

- Categorize your finds in a chart.
- Choose one or more item(s) to draw with great detail.
- Make a Venn diagram in your notebook to compare two of your finds for likenesses and differences.
- Determine the **cause** of something you find. For example, why is lichen on the bark? Or what sort of animal would make a hole in the bark and why?

## Artists in Nature

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After you've studied a few artists, take a nature walk with the eye of a discerning artist. What would an artist notice and choose to use for inspiration? Become an artist in your nature journal. Use any art medium you like.

Extensions:

- Challenge your children to focus on only one art subject like landscapes or extreme close-ups.
- Sketch your artwork in the field and bring it home to complete.
- Choose one particular artist's style and try to recreate that style in your artwork.
- Choose two artists with different styles and using the same nature scene, try to create two pieces of artwork in the style of both artists.

