



Get Outside!

Young Naturalist Club



Nature Activity Page

Is That a Flea I See?

If the day is sunny and relatively warm, you might find a sprinkling of tiny insects at the base of trees. Check the south facing side where the sun's warmth is greater. What appears to be a dense sprinkling of pepper is, in fact, a gathering of one of the few insects active in winter...the snow flea!

These insects are not actually fleas, but an even more primitive (very old) insect. Look closely and you'll see the minuscule specks jump into the air as high as three or four inches. Tucking their tails beneath their bodies propels them upwards, giving these creatures their other common name, Springtail.



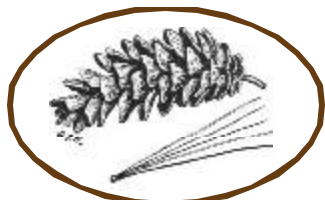
I.D. a Conifer Tree



Firs
Short needles with blunt tips, leave a round scar on branch



Spruces
Four-sided needles that are very sharp



Pines
Needles grow in bunches, wrapped together at the base

Snow Goggles!



Have you ever run outside to play in the snow on a sunny day and been blinded by the glare? The sunlight reflecting off the bright white snow can actually harm your eyes, but not if you're wearing sunglasses or *snow goggles*! Snow goggles are worn by Eskimos and other people who live in snow-covered regions.

Here's how to make em...

Cut out an eye mask, like the kind that are sold at Halloween. Instead of round eye holes, cut narrow slits. Black goggles are most effective. Staple a piece of elastic or string to the outside edges to hold the goggles in place. Why do you think the slits work better than holes?



Snowstorm or Blizzard?

Blizzards and snowstorms can sometimes surprise you. Winter wind can whip the snow around so wildly during a snowstorm that traffic slows to a crawl and entire cities close down.

On the open praries, farmers have even tied a rope from the house to the barn to help them find their way through the snow. These snowstorms happen because of sudden changes in wind, air pressure, temperature and humidity. But how can you tell if you're having a snowstorm or if you're having a full-blown blizzard?



Henry Knows!

You know it's a blizzard when you get lots of snow with strong winds of 25 miles/hour or more, visibility is less than 1/2 mile and the storm lasts for at least six hours. When the blowing snow reduces visibility to several feet, you have a white-out.



Little Traverse Conservancy
3264 Powell Road
Harbor Springs, MI . 49740

Explore a Nature Preserve!

Johnston Preserve

Elmer Johnston Nature Preserve:

Once tilled farmland and more recently used for pasture, the 220-acre Johnston Preserve boasts a rolling hardwood forest and meadowland. Beech, sugar maple, and red oak dominate the hardwood forest. The hilltops offer magnificent views of Lake Michigan and Beaver Island. Mrs. Elmer Johnston donated this property in memory of her husband in 1982. No established trails exist at this time, but old logging trails wander through the property as shown on the map.



Directions to the Johnston Preserve:

From Harbor Springs, take State Road approximately 9.5 miles to Robinson Road. Turn left on Robinson and travel 4 miles to Church Road. Take a right onto Church and travel 1/2 mile to the Johnston Preserve on the right.