

FLOWER FUNCTIONS

BEFORE 1: Nature Journaling

Background: This activity is adapted from a project funded by the [Brown Fund at the Library of Virginia](#)

For full lesson plan: go to <https://blandy.virginia.edu/content/ed-schoolyard-botany-lesson-and-activities> and click on Creating a Nature Journal.

Virginia Standards addressed:

English (2017) K.11, 1.12, 2.10, 3.8, 4.7, 5.7

Instructional Strategy:

1. Journal Making:
 - a. Give each child their materials and explain how to put the journal together, or go through step-by-step, depending on your grade level and your students.
 - b. To put the journal together, cut two pieces from the paper bag for the cover. Punch holes in the cover pages. You can use sticks to attach strings to then put through the holes to hold the book together.
 - c. Show a book or magazine from your classroom which has a photo on the cover or title page. Show how books often have a brief explanation for the picture.
 - d. On the back of the title page, ask each student to write a brief description of their photo. (They can use their imaginations for this!)
2. Journaling in the Schoolyard
 - a. Give students the opportunity to view a variety of field guides. Discuss the kinds of information they see, and why it is helpful to the reader. Discuss the kinds of pictures that are in the books.
 - b. In an area of the schoolyard with a variety of plants, allow students the opportunity to spend some time observing the plants and deciding about which to journal. Remind them to be as detailed as possible in their line drawing and use their hand lenses and observation skills to look closely and use details in their representations.
 - c. Discuss what kinds of information should be written next to their line drawings. (Examples: measurements, date, time of day, detailed descriptions, colors, how many of that plant are in the area.)

