

A Nature Study



BOTANY



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HOW TO USE THIS CURRICULUM

I'm so excited that you've chosen Rabbit Trails through Science to use in your homeschool! This curriculum is a Unit Study inspired, relaxed curriculum for elementary grades. What this means is that it's not designed to have lots of busy work. It's designed to provide quality literature to your children, hands on science experiments and activities, opportunities for copywork, nature observation, and other means to learn fun and enriching science material.

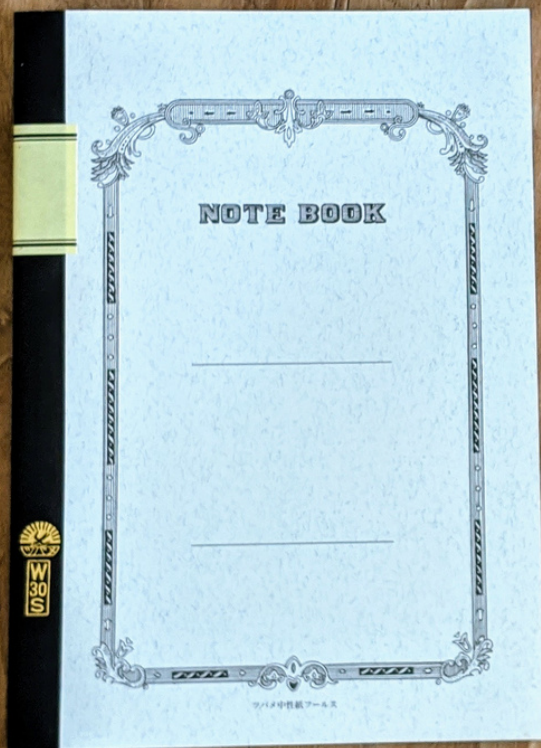
Rabbit Trails through Science was created with homeschooling adventures in mind. Not only will you be learning science, but your children will go on a journey through amazing books while gaining scientific knowledge about the world around them. This curriculum is meant to be used on *your* child's level. It's not meant to have boxes checked off each day, but to do what works for your unique family. When it comes to copywork and vocabulary, there are suggestions given, but take what you need and leave the rest. If your child isn't at the level of the suggestions, then create what works for them. Same thing if they're capable of beyond what is recommended. Make this curriculum your own!

Rabbit Trails through Science is a faith-based curriculum with Bible verses included in each lesson. However, finding quality books that do not discuss evolution can be difficult. Feel free to skip these sections in any books that discuss this, or use it as an amazing learning opportunity and discussion point to talk about your family's beliefs regarding creation.

I encourage you to enjoy reading as many of the books listed in this curriculum as you can! Quality literature is the framework of this curriculum. There are two core books to this curriculum, with many other picture books recommended. However, don't become overwhelmed with purchasing these books if you don't have the means. Many can be found at libraries, on used book websites, etc. The books listed in the Rabbit Trails and Library Lists are just suggestions. Use what books you have on hand or find at your own library on the topic! If you do choose to buy all of the books, you can access many in my shop. **You can also access all of the links, YouTube videos, and more in the Resource Page in the back of this curriculum.**

NOTEBOOK STYLE CURRICULUM

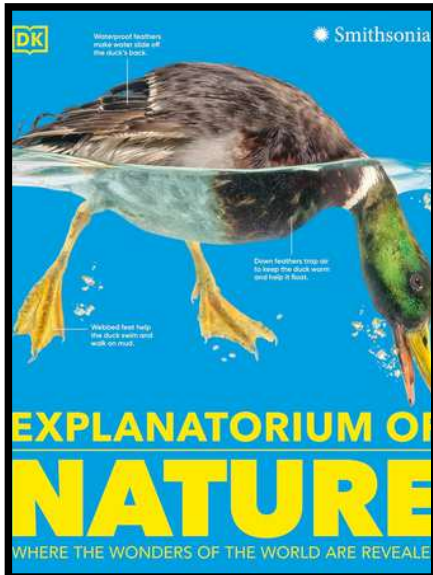
As you may have noticed, this curriculum does not include any kind of workbook for your children to work in. This was designed to all be done in a notebook. You may choose a standard, wide ruled notebook, or you can choose to use our pre-made Companion Journals. Feel free to use whatever method works best for you and your child.



CORE CURRICULUM BOOKS

These books are recommended to be purchased to go along with the curriculum as they'll be a part of each lesson in Rabbit Trails through Science: Botany. All other suggested books are listed inside of the individual lessons.

Explanatorium of Nature
by DK Smithsonian



Book of Nature Poetry
by National Geographic







Botany is the branch of biology that explores the structure of plants. Read pages 42-47 in Explanatorium of Nature and explore how plants work and how flowering plants (and seeds) grow. Pay special attention to this process called photosynthesis, as you will see it again in a later lesson.

Observation and Journaling: In your journal, draw the life cycle of a sunflower. For older students, detail the cycle and list the changes according to each stage of the flower. Make sure to note how long the process takes. Explore the bloom of the sunflower. What is different about the sunflower bloom than that of other flowers (hint: look up what a composite flower is)? Younger children may need help or may choose to draw the life cycle of a different flower.



Turn to page 110 in Book of Nature Poetry and read How to Bake a Flower. Choose part or all of it to use as copywork. For all copywork, work where your child is. If they're younger, work on individual letters or words. If they're older, they may cover part of or the entire poem.

And he will give rain for the seed with which you sow the ground, bread, and the produce of the ground, which will be rich and plenteous. -Isaiah 30:23

One of the essential parts of growth for a seed is water, just like an essential part of our growth as Christians is being in God's word. Here we learn what true faith looks like before God. We don't rely on just ourselves or our own strength. We know that God will provide all the things that we need. The Bible says that we should not look to ourselves, but always look to God to help in all situations.



Let's create a chlorophyll painting! Chlorophyll is a key ingredient in photosynthesis. You can also use it to create art. First, fold your sheet of paper in half.

You can draw a plant or tree outline first if you'd like.

Place several of your leaves in the fold and press firmly between the pages. Rub with your metal spoon.

Supplies needed:

- 6-8 leaves (spinach leaves are great for this, especially if you're doing this lesson during the fall/winter)

- A white sheet of paper

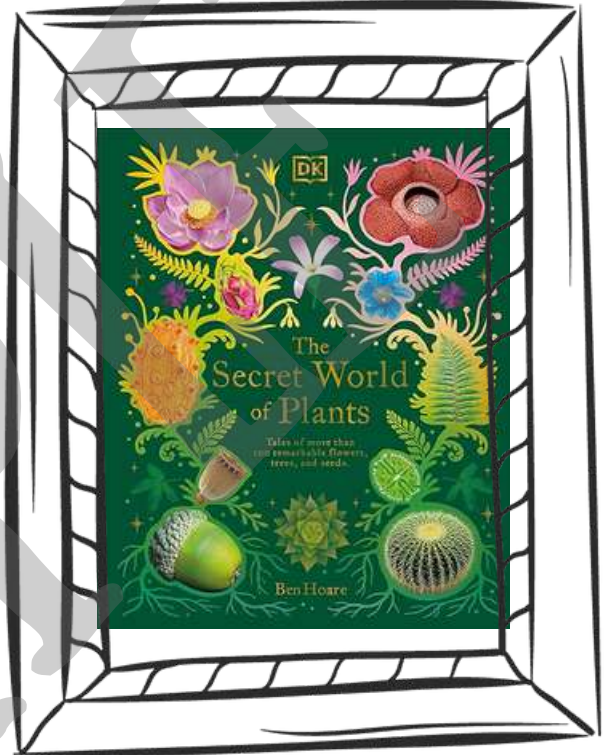
- A metal spoon (as plastic might break easily)

(For younger students, they can also just scrunch up the leaves and paint with them in hand.)





Let's learn more about plants and famous botanists. Start with *The Secret World of Plants* by Ben Hoare.

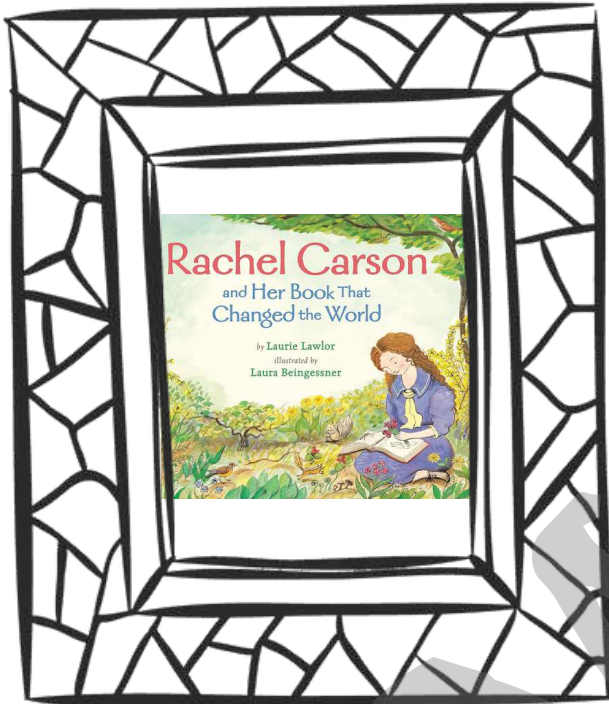


Continue learning with *Queen of Leaves* by Stephen Brisen.

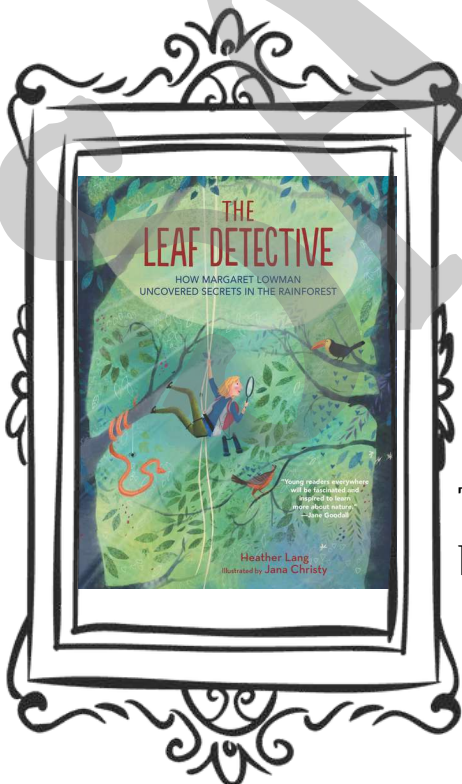
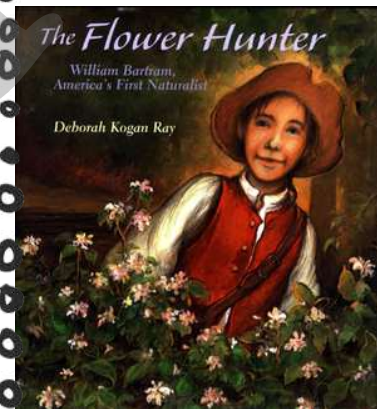
Homeschool Arcade has a neat introduction video called What is Botany? Dive in and explore different aspects of Botany, including famous botanists.



Rachel Carson and Her Book
That Changed the World
by Laurie Lawlor



The Flower Hunter
by Deborah Kogan Ray



The Leaf Detective
by Heather Lang



-Vocabulary Words: You may look up (or have your child look up) these words in the glossary or in a dictionary. Practicing using a dictionary is a great skill to learn!

-botany

-botanist

-chlorophyll

-oxygen

-Create a diagram of a plant life cycle that isn't a flower.

-Take a trip outside and find all of the different plants in your yard or a nearby park and try to identify them. Using an app like Google Lens or Seek can help you with identification. Record your findings in your journal.

-Use watercolors to create beautiful sunflower art. There are many tutorials on YouTube if you need inspiration.

-Peekaboo Kidz YouTube has several short science videos related to photosynthesis and seed germination.

-Spend a few minutes discussing how plants harness chlorophyll and what that means at daytime versus nighttime. What do all flowering plants begin as?

-Visit a sunflower farm or plant nursery in your area (seasonal).