



Notice **Nature**

*Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
Activity Guide*

Activities & guide by:



SASKATCHEWAN
WILDLIFE
FEDERATION

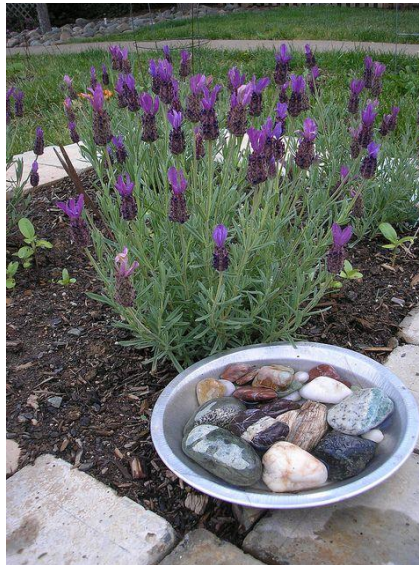


Geocaching

Geocaching is a fun international treasure hunt. All you need to do is check out the geocaching website, sign up, and start finding caches! GPS's are a useful tool to geocache but if you don't have one don't worry! Just download the geocaching app and it uses your phone as a GPS. For more information check out their helpful website <https://www.geocaching.com/play>

Bee Puddle

Take some time to make a bee puddle. Bees and butterflies need water to drink just like we do. Bird baths are usually too deep for them to get a drink. Using a shallow dish or tray fill the bottom with pebbles, rocks, or gems and then just cover them in water (not too deep!). Place your bee puddle in your yard. Now pollinators have something to drink!



Go Fishing!

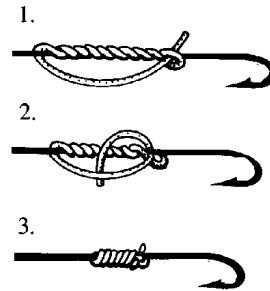
Children under the age of 16 in Saskatchewan do not need fishing licenses in order to fish. For anyone over the age of 16 and under the age of 65 check out your local license issuer. You can buy licenses for 1 day, 3 days, and annually.

Here are some fishing knots to get you started!

Fisherman's Knot or Improved Clinch Knot

Used for attaching any metal loop, swivels, hooks etc., to mono-filament. Best in lines under 25 lb. Relatively easy to tie.

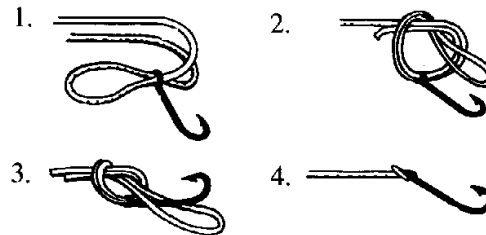
1. Run line through the eye and wrap it back around itself five or six times. Then bring the end back through the opening between the eye and the beginning of the twists.
2. Then run it through the large loop formed by the previous step.
3. Pull slowly on the standing part of the line, being careful that the end doesn't slip back through the large loop and that the knot snugs right up against the eye.



Palomar Knot

Used to attach hooks or metal loops to mono-filament and braided line. A strong, easily tied knot. Very consistent in strength.

1. Pass line or leader through the eye of the hook and back again to form 3 or 5 inch loop.
2. Hold the line and hook at the eye. With the other hand, bring the loop up and under the double line and tie an overhand knot but do not tighten it yet.
3. Hold the overhand knot. With the other hand, bring the loop over the hook.
4. Pull the line to draw the knot to the top of the eye. Pull both tag end and running line to tighten. Clip tag end off about 1/8 inch from knot.



Pond dipping

Materials:

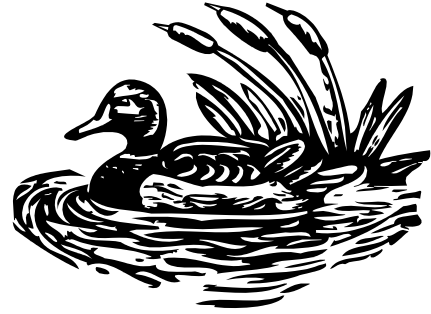
- 1 large plastic container (4 litre ice cream pail, light coloured dishpan or rubbermaid container)
- 1 small white plastic container per child (margarine or yogurt containers)
- 1 white plastic spoon per child
- Magnifying glasses or boxes (enough to share)
- Identification guides (optional)

Activity:

1. Take a trip to your local wetland. Avoid dugouts or other water bodies that have steep sides, deep water near the edge or fast water movement. Dusk and

dawn are the best times to study activity around and in ponds, lakes, rivers and wetlands. Late May and June are the best months, although autumn is a good time to see migrating waterfowl.

2. Stop and watch for awhile before you reach the pond. Encourage everyone to be quiet as you approach. See what kind of birds, animals and other creatures are found nearby.
3. At the waters edge check the water before it gets stirred up. See what's flying just above the surface, skimming across it, or swimming just beneath it.



4. Pour some pond water into the large plastic container to create the group 'pond'.
5. The kids use their personal container to scoop up some aquatic life. Using their plastic spoon, they can gently remove some of the creatures and add them to the group 'pond'. All of the exciting finds can then be shared with the group.

Note: Please ensure that hands are wet before handling any pond creatures. Your dry skin can remove the slimy waterproof coating on aquatic organisms.

6. Organisms can be spooned into magnifying boxes or small containers to be viewed more closely. The kids can try to identify the creatures or even sketch them to look at later.
7. When you've finished looking, gently pour all the water and the creatures back into the pond.

Note: Don't let the creatures sit too long in the sun. Many of them need shade and cool water.













8. You may wish to have the kids wade out a little farther into the pond with rubber boots or old shoes. This often churns up the bottom and makes it very difficult to see anything in the water. Encourage dipping from the edge, then allow them to wade into the water near the end of the activity.
9. Another fun activity is to visit a pond at night. Try shining a light into still water. Many fish, accustomed to feeding at dawn and dusk, will swim to the edge of a dimly illuminated area in search of food.

Resources:








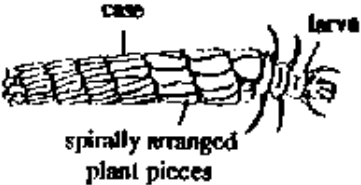




Reid, G.K. *Pond Life*. A Golden Guide, Golden Press, N.Y. 1967.

Murawsky, V. *Potholes and Ponds: A Pond Study Guide for Elementary School Children*. Vlademir H. Murawsky, Humboldt, Saskatchewan, 1987.

Poke into A Pond Checklist

<p>Water Boatman</p>  <p>┌───┐ About this long</p>	<p>Water Strider</p>  <p>┌───┐ About this long</p>	<p>Freshwater Shrimp</p>  <p>┌───┐ About this long</p>
<p>Mosquito Larva</p>  <p>┌───┐ About this long</p>	<p>Mosquito Pupa</p>  <p>┌───┐ About this long</p>	<p>Water Mite</p>  <p>┌───┐ About this long</p>
<p>Predacious Diving Beetle Larva</p>  <p>┌───┐ About this long</p>	<p>Predacious Diving Beetle</p>  <p>┌───┐ About this long</p>	<p>Pond Snail</p>  <p>Can be as large as this drawing.</p>
<p>Wheel Snail</p>  <p>Can be as large as this drawing.</p>	<p>Water Flea</p>  <p>┌───┐ About this long</p>	<p>Leech</p>  <p>Size varies</p>

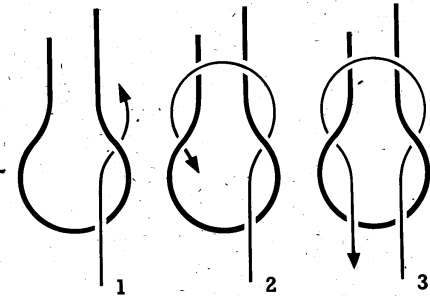
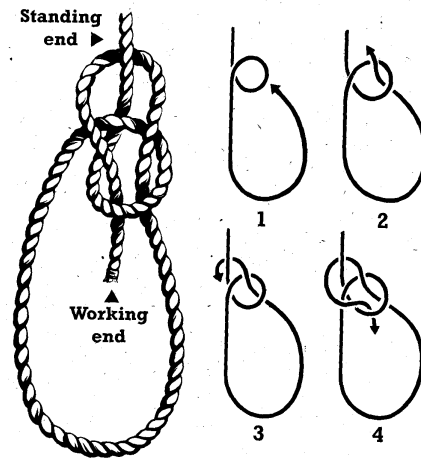
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<p>Crayfish</p>  <p>Size will vary.</p>	<p>Frog</p>  <p>Size will vary</p>	<p>Whirligig Beetle</p>  <p>┌─┐ About this long</p>
<p>Dragonfly Nymph</p>  <p>┌──────────┐ About this long</p>	<p>Damselfly Nymph</p>  <p>┌──────────┐ About this long</p>	<p>Copepod</p>  <p>Very tiny</p>
<p>Backswimmer</p>  <p>┌──────────┐ About this long</p>	<p>Caddisfly Larva</p>  <p>┌──────────┐ About this long</p>	<p>Seed Shrimp</p>  <p>┌─┐ About this long</p>
<p>Fairy Shrimp</p>  <p>┌──────────┐ About this long</p>	<p>Spider</p>  <p>Size varies.</p>	<p>Tadpole</p>  <p>Size varies</p>

Learn to tie a knot

Bowline

The bowline forms a firm loop at the end of a rope. It may be used for attaching a rope to a person as a life line as well as for raising, lowering, dragging, or any other use where a firm loop is required.

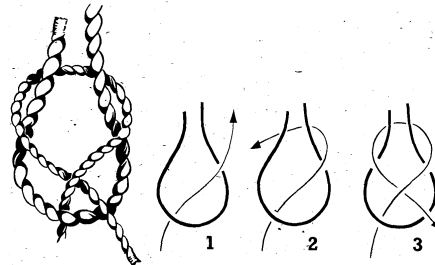


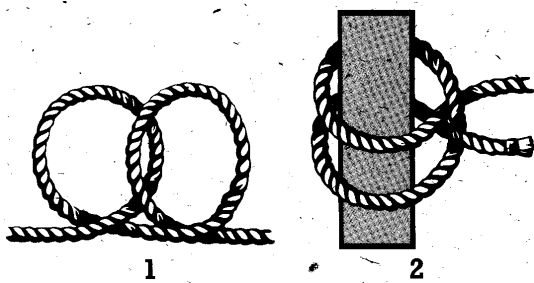
Reef or Square knot

A flat knot used when both ropes are of the same thickness. Used for tying a bandage or scarf. It is also used for joining two dry ropes of equal or approximate equal size. Think left over right and under, right over left and under.

Single Sheet Bend

Used for joining 2 ropes that are of different size, wet or not under continuous pressure.





Closed Clove Hitch

A clove hitch forms the basis of many securing knots where ropes have to be made fast to spars, poles or other supports. This hitch should be used if the object being tied can move.

Star constellations

The American Museum of Natural History has some great resources about stargazing for kids. You can check them out here:

<https://www.amnh.org/explore/ology/astronomy/a-kid-s-guide-to-stargazing>

Identifying new plants and animals

iNaturalist is a great resource for youth who are trying to identify plants, animals, or insects that they have not seen before. Users submit pictures and scientists from all over the world will help identify entries. <https://www.inaturalist.org/>

Reference books of all shapes and sizes can be found at your local library. Take a picture of your subject then look up your find in a reference book!

Building a boat

Keeping trash out of our landfills is very important. One way we can do this is by recycling!

Try building a boat out of recyclable materials in your house. Materials may include boxes, straws, paper, tape, tin foil, plastic bottles, corks and so much more. Get creative! See if it floats.

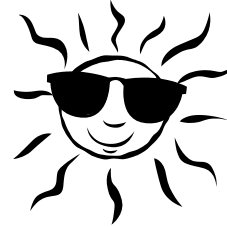


Solar Distillation

Ever find yourself in an emergency situation without water? A solar distillation might be a simple solution.

Materials:

- θ Plastic sheet (approx. 2m x 2m or 6ft x 6ft)
- θ Cup or container
- θ Shovel
- θ Rocks



Background:

Water is critical for the human body in a survival situation. Even a slight lack of water for a short time can cause body and brain damage. The average person can only survive 3 or 4 days without water. To avoid dehydration, a person should be drinking 1 to 1 ½ litres of water per day.

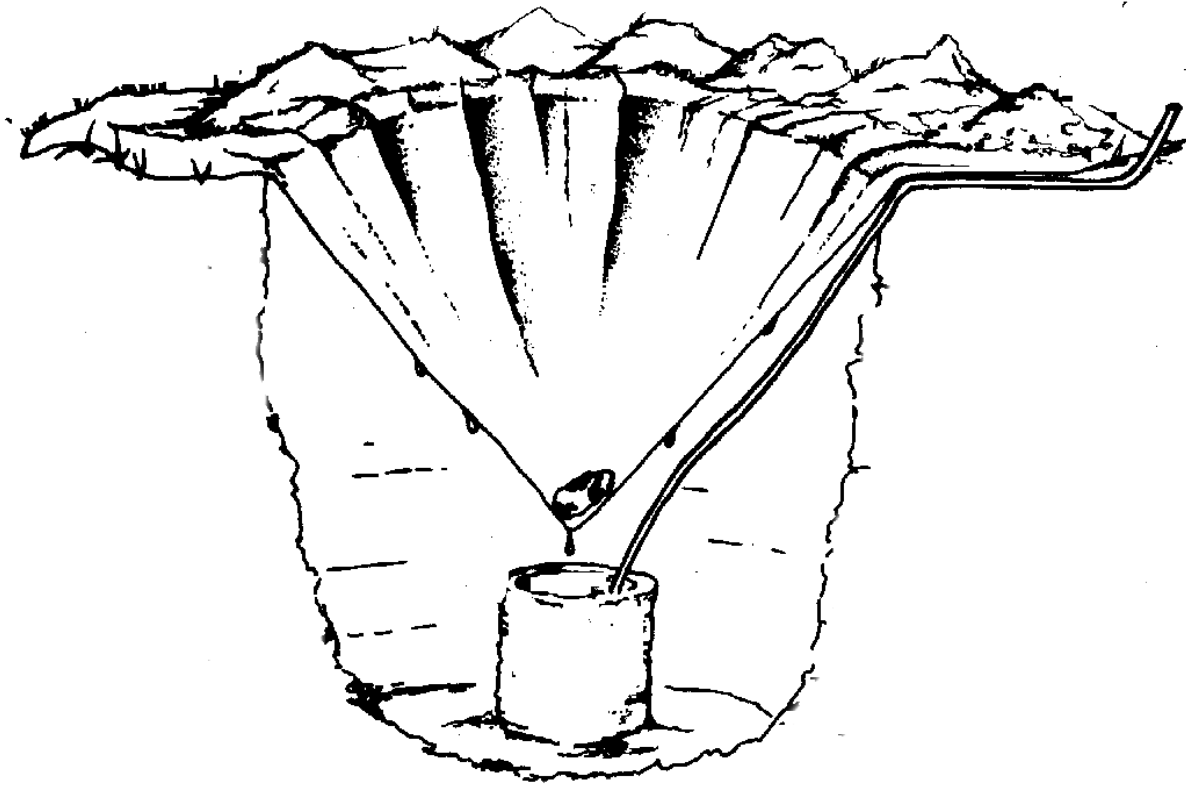
Water should be treated and purified, even in a survival situation. Drinking contaminated water can cause a simple survival situation to turn deadly. There are many different ways to obtain and purify water. One of the methods is the solar still. This method does require that the components of the still be carried in your survival pack.

The solar still is a system to extract water from the soil and plants. This enables you to obtain water in a very dry area and to purify water obtained by other means. Your solar still should be located in a damp area; a low spot, at the base of a hill or in a dry streambed. Green nonpoisonous plants, damp forest litter, and even urine can be added to the hole to give the solar still a better yield.

Activity:

1. To build the still, dig a hole 1m (3 ft) wide and 1m (3 ft) deep. In drier areas the hole will need to be larger.
2. Place the cup or container in the bottom of the hole. Leaves and plants may be placed around the cup in the bottom of the hole to increase the amount of water obtained.
3. Cover the hole with the sheet of plastic, and seal around the edges with dirt so that no moisture escapes. Weigh down the centre of the plastic sheet, directly over the cup with a rock

4. Leave the solar still for a 24-hour time period. The earth under the plastic sheet heats up from the sun. Moisture from the soil begins to evaporate, this is called the greenhouse effect. The evaporating moisture then collects on the underside of the plastic, where it condenses and runs down the plastic and drips into the cup. The solar still will work on a sunny or partly cloudy day.
5. Compare the amount of water each group obtained. Discuss why certain locations may have yielded more water than others.



Animal Signs

Animals leave signs of their presence everywhere! How many can you find?
Remember not to touch it just take a look.

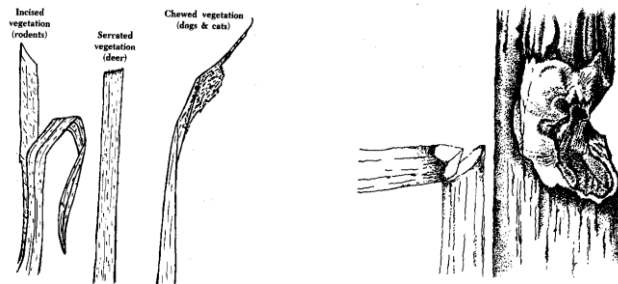
Scat (poop)



Trails



Gnaws and Chews



Rubs (places where bark has been rubbed off)

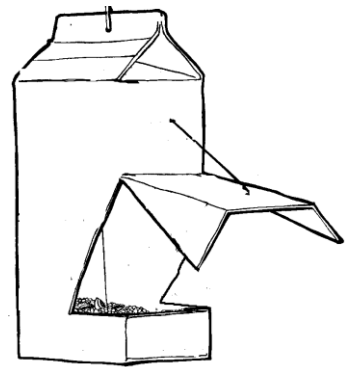


Make a bird feeder

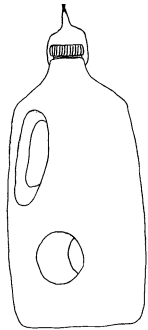
Here are some ideas to make birdfeeders in your own backyard.

Milk Carton Feeder

Two litre milk cartons make great feeders. Reseal the carton with a stapler. Draw the opening with a pen, then cut it out. Make the feeder about 3 cm (1¼ inches) deep. The roof can be held up with a straightened paper clip pushed through small holes in the carton and bent to hold it. Make tiny holes in the bottom to let rain water out. Use wire or string to hang.



Plastic Jug Feeders



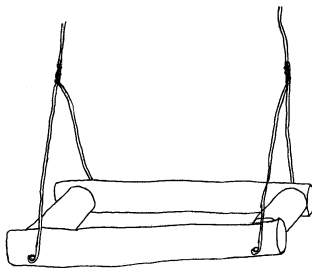
Trace the outline of a jar lid on both sides of a clean jug. Cut out the circles. Use a nail to make holes for a perch, and insert a small piece of doweling or a wooden skewer. Use wire or string for hanging. Punch or drill small holes in the bottom to drain water.

Suet / Peanut Butter Stick

Find a dead branch about 8 cm (3¼ inches) thick. Saw off a 40 cm (16 inch) piece. Drill 2.5 cm (1 inch) holes in different places, but do not go through the wood. Fasten a screw eye at the thinnest end. Then press suet or peanut butter into the holes. Hang with wire. Instead of drilling the holes, you can also nail bottle caps to the branch with large carpet tacks and fill those with suet or peanut butter.

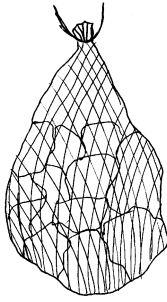


Log Feeder



Large birds like this feeder. You will need four pieces of dead branch and a piece of old window screen. Make the log frame, using four nails, but do not drive them in all the way; leave 1 cm (1/8 inch) sticking out. With carpet tacks nail the screening to the frame. To hang this feeder cut the bottom section from two coat hangers. Bend each of the four ends into hooks to fit under the nails. The screening lets rain through.

Onion Sack Suet Feeder



Fill a mesh onion sack with suet. Tie a knot in the top of the sack. Push a small wire through the sack under the knot. Hang this suet bag feeder on a tree branch high enough so dogs can't reach it.

Endangered Species

Saskatchewan is home to many different endangered species. These plants and animals for many different reasons have low numbers and need our protection.

Learn about one of the endangered species below or find another that you are interested in. Is there anything we can do to help them out?

- Burrowing Owl
- Piping Plover
- Sage Grouse
- Whooping Crane
- Swift Fox
- Sand Verbena
- Western Spiderwort
- Tiny Cryptanthe
- Hairy Prairie-clover



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SASK LOTTERIES