



Monthly Challenge

May

Nature A to Z!

Introduction:

Everything in nature has a name. Scientists assign names to living things in order to classify, or group them, and to better understand their relationship to one another. Millions of organisms have been named by scientists, with names that span the whole alphabet.

Challenge:

Take a look at your surroundings either in your neighborhood or in your local park. See if you can find one living thing for every letter in the alphabet. Using a digital camera, find and take pictures of the 26 different natural items you find!

No camera, no problem: Bring a sketch book with you and sketch the natural specimens you see. Or you can also collect the plant life specimens you find and glue them to construction paper. Be careful to leave any animal specimens in nature where you found them.

Share your Nature A - Z findings with other Nature Trackers and see what they found too!

Sharing Option #1:

Facebook - "Like" us on Facebook, and then upload your photos to share on our wall! Make sure you provide a caption that tells us what we're looking at.

Sharing Option #2:

Twitter - Share your picture on Twitter and be sure to use the hashtag #DinosAZ to let us know about it.

Helpful Tip!

Having trouble finding something for every letter of the alphabet? Start using the letter as a description of the item such as the color or texture. For example, an acorn may be **A - acorn**, **B - brown** or **N - nut**.

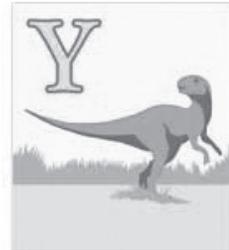
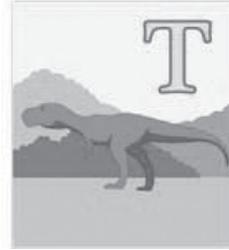
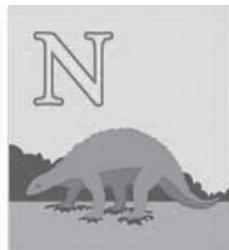
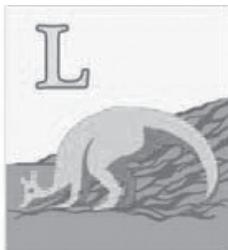
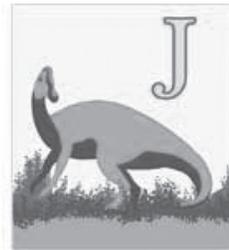


Extensions:

1. Compile your photos into an online or paper scrapbook. At the end of your project you'll have a nature alphabet book!
2. Lay out your photos either printed out or look at them online. What are the different categories you can make to classify your findings? How many green natural items did you find? How many large natural items or smooth natural items did you find? Move the photos into different piles as you create categories or make categorized folders on your computer to move around your images.

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