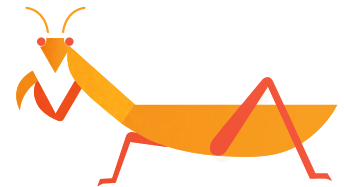





# *I Spy Wildlife Adventure*



A FAMILY ACTIVITY



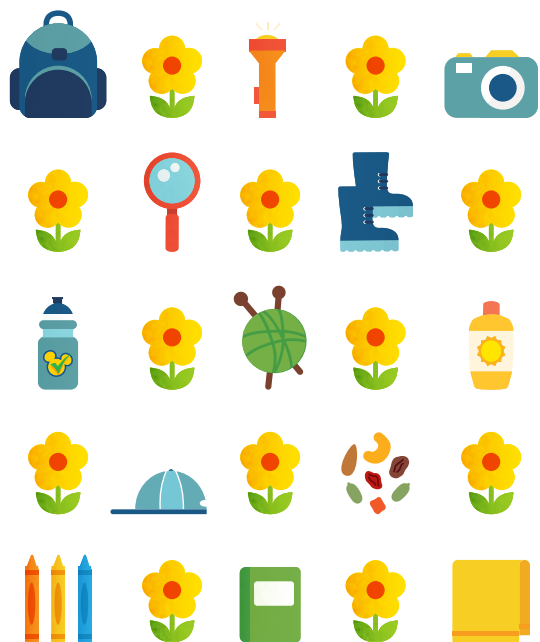
[Disney.com/TRYit](https://Disney.com/TRYit)



**BE INSPIRED**  
Disney CITIZENSHIP

# A FAMILY ACTIVITY

Spending time outdoors and exploring nature is a great way to get active, conserve the environment and develop an appreciation for nature that can last through your entire life. Spark your curiosity and develop your powers of observation by spying on creatures that live in your own backyard or neighborhood. You will discover that all animals, big and small, are important to the ecosystem, even the creepy crawly ones.



## 1. GRAB THE RIGHT GEAR

Preparation will help your "I Spy Wildlife Adventure" be fun and safe. Make a list of the items you will need for a successful adventure.

- Pack a back pack or a bag with some essentials.
- Don't forget sunscreen, hats and comfortable shoes.
- Pack water! It's important to stay hydrated in hot or cold weather.
- Bring nutritious snacks to stay energized during your adventure!
  - Trail mix is easy to prep and pack (find a simple recipe below).
  - Fresh fruit needs no prep. You can even bring along frozen grapes for another way to stay hydrated and have a tasty treat on a hot day.
- Bring a journal, drawing pad, crayons or markers.
- Include a large blanket for up-close observing or relaxing.
- Take a jump rope or length of yarn and magnifying glass to create a small viewing area.
- Carry a flashlight for looking in shadowy places or under rocks and logs.
- Take a camera to capture highlights of the adventure and focus in on critters you find.

## Trail Mix Recipe

### INGREDIENTS

- ¼ Cup Dried Cranberries
- ¼ Cup Cashews
- ¼ Cup Dried Papayas (no sugar added)
- ¼ Cup Raisins
- ¼ Cup Almonds
- ¼ Cup Pecans
- ¼ Cup Dried Bananas (no sugar added)
- ¼ Cup Sunflower Seeds

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Pour cranberries, cashews, papayas, raisins, almonds, pecans, bananas, and sunflower seeds into a bowl and mix with a spoon.
2. Once ingredients are mixed together the trail mix is ready to eat.
3. Just divide the trail mix into small bags and bring with you.



## 2. PICK A SPOT

Places to connect with nature may be closer than you think!

- Discover the wildlife that lives in your own backyard.
- Explore the animals that make a nearby park their home.
- Observe the variety of life you spy on a neighborhood walk.
- Find out which insects are drawn to a local nursery or garden center.
- Search for insect and bird life at a botanical garden.
- Enjoy the wildlife that calls a nearby pond, creek, or lake their home.



The Mickey Check is a tool that makes it easier for kids and families to identify nutritious choices in stores, online, and while on vacation at Walt Disney Parks & Resorts.

FOR MORE RECIPE IDEAS, VISIT:  
[DisneyMickeyCheck.com](https://www.DisneyMickeyCheck.com)



### 3. GET UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

*A nature journal is a handy way to record and later recall your animal observations.*

- Spread a blanket and make note of the animals around you.
- Keep a list of which animals stay close to specific plant life.
- Bring a wildlife field guide for your area and mark off critters you can identify.
- Curve a jump rope or length of yarn into a circle and draw a picture of the creatures that live in that small circle of life - between blades of grass or under logs and rocks.
- Use a magnifying glass to closely observe how different creepy crawlies move or eat.

### 4. SHARE YOUR ADVENTURE

*Now that you and your family have had a successful "I Spy Wildlife Adventure", you can share the things you've learned at school and with family and friends.*

- Post drawings or wildlife observations in your home or online.
- Write and send letters or emails about the wildlife adventure to family members and friends.
- Prepare a 10 minute presentation to share at school or a local library.
- During meal times, discuss the variety of wildlife you've observed with your family.
- Keep the discussion going by comparing wildlife from the neighborhood with wildlife observed during your next trip to an AZA-accredited zoo or aquarium.
- Add new and ongoing wildlife observations to your own nature journal.









# KEEP A CHECKLIST

Now that you've had a taste of the great outdoors, you can stay connected to nature by keeping tabs on new wildlife you observe – Start a wildlife or nature checklist and keep adding to it.



## I SPY WILDLIFE CHECKLIST



CREATURE	FUN FACT	PLACE	DATE
 <i>Ant</i>	There are over 2,500 species of ants!		
 <i>Bat</i>	Just one bat can catch hundreds of insects in an hour!		
 <i>Bee</i>	A normal bee colony may contain up to 50,000 bees.		
 <i>Caterpillar</i>	They have 12 eyes but they can't see all that well.		
 <i>Centipede</i>	They burrow into the ground during the daytime, and can be observed but should not be picked up.		
 <i>Dragonfly</i>	Mosquitoes are their favorite meal!		
 <i>Frog or Toad</i>	Frogs and toads are great animals to have in your backyard as they eat many kinds of harmful insects.		
 <i>King Snake</i>	This species lives mostly in the southern United States and Mexico because it loves prairies and deserts.		
 <i>Ladybug</i>	All ladybugs look similar but have different numbers of spots.		
 <i>Luna Moth</i>	They live from Florida all the way up to eastern Canada.		
 <i>Monarch Butterfly</i>	These butterflies migrate in fall to California and Mexico. In the spring they return to breeding areas as far as southern Canada.		
 <i>Praying Mantis</i>	These insects are hard to spot among branches of trees where they wait to ambush passing insects.		
 <i>Red-tailed Hawk</i>	This species seeks out rising air currents called thermals on which it circles and soars while looking for prey.		
 <i>Spotted Salamander</i>	These amphibians live on land and in water.		
 <i>Scarab Beetle</i>	Adults form balls of dung and roll them about.		
 <i>Tarantula</i>	Females can live 20 - 25 years!		
 <i>Tortoise</i>	These reptiles are vegetarians.		