

# Observing Local Nature Project



## *What is the OLN Project?*

- **The goal of the OLN Project** is to get learners outdoors to make first-hand observations of real plants, trees, and animals in their own backyards and neighborhoods.
- Weekly presentations are located on the [Online Learning](#) page of the Holden Forests & Gardens website.
- Students can use the topic of phenology and the science skill of observation to guide their exploration of the natural world.
- Each weekly topic includes information about a specific plant or tree, a coloring page, and a checklist you can use to guide your observations.
- The project is geared towards children in grades K-6. Younger students may need more guidance, while older students may be encouraged to be more independent.

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## *How can students use this resource?*

- Each weekly presentation is crafted to inspire learners' curiosity and prompt them to ask questions and investigate similarities and differences between living things in their own backyards and neighborhoods, and the organisms presented in the slides.
- The presentations can be accessed in any order and revisited at any time. (We recommend starting with the introduction video and presentation.)
- Students can move through the presentations to learn about plants at the Arboretum and Botanical Garden that are undergoing visible seasonal changes.
- Students can also complete a coloring sheet based on the plant of the week, as well as explore outdoors to look for and observe examples of trees, plants, insects, and animals in their own neighborhoods.
- We encourage families and teachers to share their learners' photos, discoveries, and completed coloring pages by using [#NeighborsWithNature](#) on social media.