

Science Nature Journal

Objective: To encourage you to get outdoors to create a science nature journal by performing research and tracking a native species. By creating an interactive nature journal, not only will you strengthen your organizational skills, but also get a chance to see the world around you from a different point of view.

What You Need:

- Access to the library or Internet
- Loose leaf paper
- Pen or pencil

Vocabulary:

Species - a group of plants or animals whose members are similar or closely related

What You Do:

Do the Research.

- Visit your local library or use the Internet to research several **species** that exist to Hawai'i.
- Choose two species—**one plant and one animal**—that you're fairly certain you can easily find on Maui. In other words, try to stay away from isolated animals or rare plants!
- On loose leaf paper, record what you've learned, including drawings of the species, details on its habits, such as eating and moving around, and information about where it can be found.
- Be sure to put a title, first and last name, and date on your research paper.

Create an Observation Chart.

- On another sheet of loose leaf paper, set up a chart for observing your species in nature. Create **one chart for your plant** and **one chart for your animal**.
- Create five columns and label them as follows:
 - First column “Date and Time”
 - Second column “Location”
 - Third column “Weather Conditions”
 - Fourth column “Species Sighted”
 - Fifth column “Observations”
- **See Observation Chart example below.**

Plan Your Observations.

- Choose two places outside where you'll go to observe your plant species and two places to observe your animal species (plant and animal locations can be in the same place). Make sure that these places are easily accessible and that you'll be able to return more than one time.
- Plan to visit your sites at two separate times, such as once in the morning and once in the evening.

Complete Your Observations.

- Take your Observation Chart to each spot you've chosen. Make sure to fill in every column, recording as much detail as possible.

Compile Your Notes.

- Take the time to read your notes carefully, looking for general trends. When you review the results, note how your species' behave and how they seem to have adapted to their settings.

Present Your Findings.

- Be prepared to discuss your findings with the class.
- Turn in the paper with your research and observation chart. Be sure to include your full name and date.

