



Nature Trail

I see a green grasshopper sitting on a plant.

I see a tall bushy shade tree.

I see a busy big black ant.

I see something on a flower; careful it's a bee!

I see a giant brown rock.

I see a squirrel running fast on the nature trail.

I see birds flying in the sky in a flock.

I see a brown duck going for a sail.

Nature Trail

(Grade Level: Kindergarten-Second Grade)

Materials: Overhead Projector, or SMART Board, copies of poem, copies of writing and drawing activity. Pencils. ***Note*** If you choose to use the SMART Board, you may go to Mightybook.com and pull up the lesson online.

****Teacher Note**** There is also an optional outdoor activity to reinforce this lesson.

Goal of Activity: The rhyming poem can be used as an additional resource to reinforce rhyming words and sharpen listening skills. The activity can also be used to introduce and discuss the meaning of nature and reasons there are nature trails.

1. **Picture Walk:** Begin with a picture walk by asking students what they see in the picture. Use the picture as a prompt for discussing the objects as well as the colors used.
2. **Discuss Title:** Discuss the title of the poem. You might ask, for example, “What is a nature trail and where can we find one?” ***Teacher Note*** The poem was written to introduce students the meaning of nature and walking trails.
 - Engage students in discussion about the kinds of insects and animals that live outside, etc.
 - For example, “Where do birds live? Do bugs live outside?” Come up with other related questions to direct them toward the “Nature Trail” poem.
3. **What is Poetry:** You might want to check out a book of poetry for kids at the library. There are many great poetry books that you may be familiar with. Two recommendations are, *The Random House Book of Poetry for Children*, and *Ride a Purple Pelican* by Jack Prelutsky. This is a book full of exciting rhymes that are fun and age appropriate.
 - Ask students if they know what a poem is. You might explain that poems are fun when you juggle your words, patterns and rhythms together to make them exciting. They come in many different forms and can be about anything you want. Below are a few examples of poetry types to discuss with your students.
 - **Rhyming Poems:** use the repetition of the same or similar sounds for two or more words at the end of the lines.

- **Free Verse Poetry:** written in either rhyming or unrhymed lines that have no real rhythm or pattern.
 - If you decided to check out a book, this is a great time to read one very short poem (for this age group) to your students. This way you can get their brain juice valves warmed up for rhymes.
4. **Rhyming Poetry Warm-Up:** Tell students that “*Nature Trail*” is a rhyming poem. Make sure students understand the meaning of a rhyme. You may need to give a brief example if there aren’t many hands raised.
 - First, choose a simple word to write on the board. Then ask students for a word that rhymes with the one you wrote. For example, you may write “hop.” A student might answer with “flop.”
 - Pick two more words that you make up and repeat the step above.
 - Make sure to call on students whose hands are not raised so you can see who may need a little extra support with the lesson.
 5. **Pass Out Copies of Poem:** Ask a student to pass out *Nature Trail* poem. As they are distributing the poem, remind all students they will need to listen very closely for rhyming words.
 6. **Read Poem:** Read *Nature Trail* and ask students to follow along with you. At the end of each line, pause for a few seconds and look around the room to see if students are following along. You should be able to see their brain valves moving.
 7. **Students Read Aloud and Circle Rhyming Words:** Using your Overhead Projector or SMART Board, have students read along with you the second time.
 - ** **Teacher Note** Kindergarten:** students will likely need you to read the poem. If this is the case, ask students to wake up Ms. Pointer Finger to help them track the words as you read.
 - Pause at the end of the second line and ask students if they hear the rhyming words.
 - When students hear the rhymes, ask them to repeat the words after you. Then circle the rhyming words on your Overhead or SMART Board and ask them to do the same. You might even ask them to use a crayon or colored pencil to circle the rhyming words.
- ** **Teacher Note** 1st Grade:** challenge your students to read one line at a time.

- Ask a student to read the first line. Then ask another student to read the second line. Have those two students work together to decide which words rhyme.
 - When the two students agree, ask the class if the rhyming words are correct. When everyone agrees, ask the class to circle the rhyming words together.
 - Ask another student the meaning of the rhyming words. For example, “What does ‘trail’ and ‘sail’ mean?”
 - Continue circling the rhyming words along with your students and asking them the meaning of the words.
8. **Poem Discussion:** After students have read and circled the rhyming words, discuss the poem with them.
Here are a few sample questions you may use:
- What do you think the author of the poem is writing about?
 - What do you think the writer is trying to tell us?
 - What is a nature trail?
9. **Writing and Drawing Activity:** Pass out the writing and drawing activity, printed below. Explain that they will write the rhyming words from the poem on the worksheet provided. Then ask them to draw a nature trail and include things they may see on the trail. Tell them to be as creative as they can. It is *their* nature trail.

Name _____

“Nature Trail”

Writing and Drawing Activity

Write four rhyming word pairs from the poem.

1. The word _____ and _____ rhyme.
2. The words _____ and _____ rhyme.
3. The words _____ and _____ rhyme.
4. The words _____ and _____ rhyme.

Draw a picture of a nature trail and include birds, trees, flowers, insects and other things you may find outside.

“Nature Trail” Walking Activity

Goal of Activity:

Summer is here and it's time to have a blast! Take students on a Nature Trail field trip to collect items from outside. Identify a walking trail nearby or walk around the block. Students will learn about things that live outside in their environment. They will collect items from nature and glue or tape and label them to construction paper. The final project is to have students present their nature project to the class. They will discuss the items they found, and reasons they are important to nature.

Materials

- ✓ **Permanent Marker:** to write the names of students on paper cups.
- ✓ **Paper bags or plastic bags:** for students to collect items from nature
- ✓ **Glue:** This will work for small items
- ✓ **Construction Paper:** (or cardboard, scrap poster board, etc.) It is up to you so be creative in choosing the background for their collected items.
- ✓ **Tape:** For those medium to large items students collect.
- ✓ **Water:** Stay hydrated on the walk and bring water.

Get Ready for A Nature Trail Walk!

1. **Nature Trail Discussion:** Reinforce that a nature trail is a place where you may see people walking or jogging, bird watching, biking, etc. Ask students other things they may see and hear on their walk.
2. **Write names on bags:** Have students use a permanent marker to write their names on their bags.
3. **Have students line up with a partner:** As students are walking they can talk to their partner about items they are collecting on the trail.
4. **Take a Nature Trail Walk:** Lead students on a short nature trail walk or for a walk around the block. As you are walking, be sure to ask students to identify things they see and hear outside in their environment. You might ask questions, such as, “what do you see? What do you hear?”
 - As you are walking, give students time to spread out and start collecting natural items such as sticks, leaves, small rocks, etc. **(No dead animals, please).**
 - Make sure they are not collecting large items that cannot be taped or glued.
 - Continue your walk and engage students in discussion about nature trails and why they are used. If you took your students for a walk around the neighborhood, discuss reasons people go for walks. Some discussion items maybe; some people walk or run for exercise, look at gardens, etc.

5. **After Nature Walk:** Ask students to sit at their table or to find a spot on the floor and begin sorting their items.
6. **Set up A Construction paper (or paper you chose)Station:** Allow students to go to the station (a few at a time) to choose their paper. Ask students to place their collected nature items on the construction paper **before** they glue or tape. This will ensure that all items fit.
7. **Glue and Tape station:** If there is not enough to go around, send a few students at a time to use the glue and tape.
8. **Nature Walk Presentation:** Set aside student projects for the day to allow drying. For their presentation, you might have it the following day.
 - **Other ideas:** Choose a bulletin board that students can assist you to decorate using their projects.
 - Invite another classroom to hear the presentation.
 - Use your teacher creative brainpower valves and find a way to let them show off their hard work.

***** Students have completed “Nature Trail” Poetry Activity. Tell them to kiss their brains! Great work today! *****