

Polly's Projects

Try some of PHA founder Polly Hill's projects to keep learning about plant science while you are out of school!

The cool thing about being a conservationist or a scientist is that you can do it anywhere! Keep a nature journal during this time and see what you can find in natural world around you. Here are some suggested activities for you to keep your science skills fresh!

Age group

All ages

Directions

-Habitats are areas that give animals food, shelter and water. Find a habitat in your back yard, neighborhood, or Polly Hill Arboretum, and describe it: Which animals live there? How do they get food, water, and shelter? Write a short letter to your teacher, parents, or PHA educators and tell us what you find! Or, make a book using pictures or photos to illustrate what habitats you find.

-Take a quiet walk and see how many different birds you hear. Can you find the bird that is singing? Do you recognize any of the songs? Where did you see them: bush, tree, field? Draw where you see them, or take a photo! Find as many birds as you can, and record it all in your natural journal!

-People your age are our Earth's future conservationists! Find a project you are interested in that helps conserve nature on this island. Protect a tree, clean up trash, create a habitat for butterflies, or build bird houses. Write a letter to your principal telling them what you're doing and why it is important to you, and while you're at it, send a copy to Polly Hill Arboretum! We would love to hear what you're doing! We like photos or drawings too :)
(Email to info@pollyhillarboretum.org or mail to PO Box 561, West Tisbury, MA 02575)

I know this is a hard time, but nature is a great distraction and healer. Get outside and explore your back yard, just like Polly did!



Nature Journal Ideas:

- Pick a tree this spring and visit it every week. Each week, either take a picture or draw your tree. Make observations about what changes you see in your tree.

-Make a map of your own backyard. Use [inaturalist.com](https://www.inaturalist.com) or a tree book to identify the different trees, and show where they are on your map. If you can't find their real names, get creative and give it your own name.

-Practice bark rubbings! Put a page of your journal on the bark of a tree, and using a pencil or crayon, rub it against the paper so that the bark pattern is shown on your journal page. You can do this with leaves too. Don't forget to make note of the location of your tree.

-Collect flowers or leaves that you think are interesting. Tape or glue them into your nature journal. As always, get permission first. It is usually okay to pick up leaves that have fallen on the ground.

