



# Earth Stories Exchange



The Earth Stories Exchange is simple – write a story about something you did outside, share it with us, and we'll send you story back – like pen pals! It's simple to do; just follow the steps below.

1. **Get outside!** Remember to physically distance yourself from others.
2. **Notice, observe, question** everything around you! Don't worry, we have some tips.
3. Use the back of this flyer to **create a story** based on what you did and noticed outside!
4. **Share** your story with us! Choose one of these three options.
  - a) Complete Upham's online story exchange form: <https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/uphamwoods/earth-stories-exchange>
  - b) Email your story to us at [uphamwoods@extension.wisc.edu](mailto:uphamwoods@extension.wisc.edu)
  - c) Mail your story to us!

Upham Woods Naturalists  
N194 County Rd N  
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53562

Here's an example story from a group that visited Upham this winter. See how they based their story on something they did (building a fort) but then added a twist – a plane crash. They also included observations they made while they were outside like the species of the trees they used.

Your story doesn't need to look like this one, it can be whatever you want: a poem, song, comic strip, video – whatever! You can also create the story with anyone.

**Scientific Story Outdoor Survival**  
**Team Members: Beavers & Bears**  
**Date: 1/5/2020**  
**Location: Behind the Nature Center**

**Cub Scout**  
**Packs 70 & 79**



We used a thermal imager to look for cooler spots in our forts

### How did you end up in a survival situation?

A plane crashed into some trees while we were on our way to Upham Woods. We used the pine brush from the crash to build a fort on an oak tree (we know it was oak tree because of the leaves and crackly bark). The Bears used a bench in their fort from the plane crash because we would be warmer sitting on the bench than on the ground. The Beavers used a lot of pine brush and had a Christmas tree because it is better at insulating us. After a few days, Isabelle found us and took us somewhere safe.

We had to fill different roles such as fort tester, pine brush and stick gatherer, scribe and data collector, stick stacker, firewood stacker. We got better at communicating as we continued to build the fort.

**Recorded data from inside and outside of each patrol's fort:**  
We noticed that the forts were very similar inside and were best at keeping out the wind. We took the data using a kestrel.

	Bears	Beavers	Outside
Wind	0.4 mph	0.3 mph	2.4 mph
Temp	39.8°F	39.4°F	39°F



For more information, contact Justin Hougham, or check out our website:  
[justin.hougham@wisc.edu](mailto:justin.hougham@wisc.edu) • (608) 254-6461 • <http://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/environmentaleducation/>

# Earth Stories Exchange



Go outside

You can make a story  
out of anything!

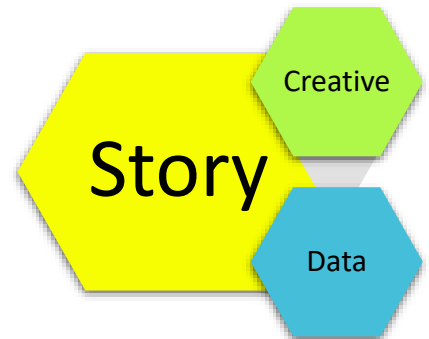


Observe



1. Ask questions
2. Make guesses/hypothesize about what's happening around you.
3. Write it all down!

Observation is a part of the scientific process. When you include numbers it is *quantitative* data and when you describe it using words or pictures it's *qualitative* data.



Describe what you **did**, a **discovery** you made, or the results of a simple **experiment**, and include your **observations** and **data**.

## If you're stuck here are some thoughts to get you started...

Go outside and hold your arms out in front of you and make a rectangle with your fingers.

What do you notice inside the rectangle?

What did you wonder about it?

What does it remind you of?

When you make observations at Upham Woods using your five senses, we like to call it using your original scientific toolkit! If you're not sure how or what you should be observing pick one of your five senses and focus on it for a while – that should get you somewhere.

## Stories.

They have played a huge role on how we have shared science and knowledge throughout human history. Think of the stories about the stars! Without those observations and early hypotheses, where would we be now? So when you're writing your story, don't worry if it seems silly or if your guess was wrong – someone else will find it interesting and pick it back up when they start their scientific story.

Share your scientific story so we can know a little more about the Earth where you are!

Reach out to Justin Hougham with any questions.

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# Earth Stories Exchange

What's your nature explorer name? \_\_\_\_\_

How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your location or what kind of ecosystem are you reporting from? (county/city - or forest/shoreline/prairie etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

What sort of data are you collecting for your story? Please circle

Quantitative  
(measures quantity  
expressed in numbers)

Qualitative  
(data based on observations  
using the senses)

Both

By sharing your story, you grant permission to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to use your story in UW reports, articles and publications designed for educational, informational, and promotional purposes. These materials may be posted on the world wide web for a period of time.

**Write your story! You can use the back of this page to draw.**

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How do you want us to send you a story? Please circle.

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Or snail mail: please use the return address.

**You can check out our Facebook page (Upham Woods) for more story prompts!**

**Do you have any questions for our naturalists or anything you want them to explore?**

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Circle your answers to the following questions

**Do you think making observations about the natural world, writing them down and sharing them is part of science?** YES NO

**Did you think that before you participated in the Earth Stories Exchange?** YES NO

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