

# Welcome to Brent Bear Naturalist Week

Good Morning Naturalists,

Even though we're apart from each other, there are a lot of things that still **connect us**. One of those is **our rivers**. We all live in what we call the Anacostia watershed. Each drop of rain that falls flows right past all of us.

This week we will celebrate this connection by **becoming naturalists!** All Brent Bears are invited to participate in the following experiences:

## Throughout the week:

- Start creating a **Naturalist Notebook** to share with each other, and with our friends at the Anacostia Watershed Society (*pg. 2 & 3*)
- Participate in a variety of digital and hands on **Wetland activities** (*pg. 4*)

## Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>: Naturalist "Catch-Up Day"

- Participate in **3 Virtual Field Experiences** (*pg. 5*)
- Participate in **3 Hands-On Provocations** (*pg. 5*)
- Work on and submit your Naturalist notebook

Have fun!

Love, Your Teachers



# The Naturalist Notebook Challenge



Watch [this video](#) from Mr. Mangiaracina, introducing the challenge.

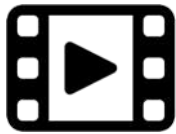
**The challenge:** Complete at least 10 pages of a Naturalist Notebook using whatever paper or materials you have available at home.

**The purpose:** To observe the natural world and record observations in a meaningful way. An observation is simply “something that you notice.” It is important to note that we can observe with all five of our senses. An observation should be something *real* we notice out in nature.

**Guidelines for Words:** Create a title for each journal entry along with date/time/location/temperature/weather. Use descriptive words and emotions to describe what you see. Describe any actions you are seeing. Consider completing the following sentences:” I wonder if/how/why/when where.... I noticed that..... It reminds me of....”

**Guidelines for Illustrations/Diagrams:** Draw what you really see, not something you’ve made up or copied. Use shapes to help simplify what you are drawing. Use colors if you can. Remember to use words to label your drawing.

Find the **COMPLETE CONTEST RUBRIC** and additional details on the [Anacostia Watershed Society Website](#).



- Two of Brent's winners from last year share their experiences [here](#), and [here](#).
- Two video examples of Naturalist notebooks: [Video One](#), [Video Two](#)



# The Naturalist Notebook Challenge



ANACOSTIA  
WATERSHED  
SOCIETY

## JOIN OUR NATURALIST NOTEBOOK CONTEST!

Open to all K-12 students who apply by **June 15!** Complete at least 10 pages of a "naturalist notebook" using whatever paper or materials you have available at home. Winners will be announced over the summer, and presented awards in the fall.

**Mail your notebook to:**  
**Naturalist Notebook Challenge;**  
**4302 Baltimore Avenue**  
**Bladensburg, MD 20710**



# Throughout The Week

Work on the Naturalist Notebook Challenge!

Explore [the Smithsonian's Nature Journal Resources](#)

Watch this [Magic School Bus episode](#) to learn more about the wetlands

Check out the cross words, word searches and more in this [Wetlands Activity Packet](#)

Read the book [Henry the Impatient Heron](#) (password: May15)

Read books from the *Backyard Bugs* and *Colors in Nature* on your Epic! account

Meet a friend of Brent, Ms. Maddie, who [shares AWS activities](#) you can do at home



# For Friday, May 1st

## Virtual Field Experiences:

### Wildlife on the Anacostia

- [Watch this video tour of urban wildlife on the Anacostia](#)
- Sketch or paint what you see

### Mr. M's Neighborhood

- [In this video](#), Mr. Mangiaracina and his son work on a Naturalist Notebook by his house.

### Coastal Wetlands Virtual Field Trip

- Visit the [Great Lakes](#) to learn about coastal wetlands and the dangers of algae blooms.

## Hands on Provocations:

### Nature Portraits

- Collect nature from outside and bring it to an outdoor workspace. See if you can build a portrait. Take a picture to remember your masterpiece and leave the nature outdoors.



### Cardboard Collage

- Upcycle a piece of cardboard as a canvas. Leave it as it is, or cut the cardboard into a nature-inspired shape. Collect natural items from outside and glue them on to create a unique design.



### Wetlands Diorama

- The wetlands provide a habitat for many plants and animals. Using materials you can find at home, create a diorama of a wetland habitat. What animals or plants will you include?

