

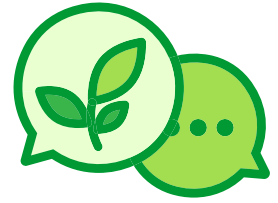


Connect With Nearby Nature

Signage Instructions and Templates

○ Educator Instructions

Creating signage for your outdoor space is a great way to share learning with the broader community and encourage others to become curious about nearby nature. Here are some considerations for your sign-making project:



- 1 Before installing signs, be sure to get permission from the appropriate authority. For example, collaborate with your municipality to install signs at your nearest park or ask school custodians or administrators for permission to install on school grounds.
- 2 Consider your learning objectives, audience, and intended-use when crafting the signs. These may align with the audience and intended use of the [Field Guide](#) and/or [Maps](#). EcoSchools provides three sign templates for your convenience:
 - **General Signage** ([page 3](#)): to provide a simplified version of the information from your Field Guides, such as name, image, and description of things in the environment.
 - **“Use Your Senses” Signage** ([page 4](#)): to prompt embodied engagement with the environment by highlighting different sights, smells, feelings, and sounds.
 - **“Ecological Eye Spy” Signage** ([page 5-6](#)): to encourage others to make observations of biodiversity in the environment too.



Tip!

There are infinite possibilities for engaging signage in your outdoor space! Leverage student creativity to go beyond the EcoSchools templates. Some other ideas include signs that ask readers to take an immediate environmental action, use of QR codes and audio clips for accessibility, or a large map with points-of-interest highlighted.



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3 Get outside and observe the environment!

- Establish safety protocols for your class. Be sure to communicate clear spatial boundaries, emergency response plans, and learning expectations so students know how to respond in unexpected situations.
- Encourage students to note as many details of their observation as possible - this will allow them to properly identify the observation later. It may be helpful to record observations on a draft-copy of their signage templates. Consider taking photos, videos, or audio recordings too.

4 Create beautiful, informative signs.

- Compile field observations and refine notes to create the final signs for your outdoor space.
- Consider raising funds to support the implementation of durable, outdoor signs that can be enjoyed by many people through different seasons!
- Connect your project to other EcoSchools actions like **Repurposing and Innovative Recycling** by crafting pre-used materials into new signs. When completing your Certification Questions in the EcoSchools application, be sure to describe how these actions are extensions of each other, rather than duplications.

5 Share your learning!

- Students can share their field guides with their school and broader communities. See the Trailhead: Getting Started section of the [Educator Booklet](#) for ideas.

Materials

- Signage Templates ([pages 3-6](#))
- Depends on desired format! Signs could be laminated papers, wood-burned or painted plaques, printed plaques, etc. Choose the option that aligns with your learning objectives and budget.

Signage Templates

- On the following pages are three signage templates with instructions on how to fill them out. These templates are provided for your convenience, but schools are encouraged to create their own signs too!
- The blank templates can be printed and filled by hand, or filled digitally through a PDF software. Print copies as required, or provide students with a digital copy of the file for their own use.



Connect With Nearby Nature


Signage Instructions and Templates

General Signage: Instructions

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Thank you for exploring nearby nature!

[Insert a picture here]



You are looking at a

[Name the plant or tree. Consider using common names in English or French, local Indigenous names, and the Latin/scientific name of the plant].

This organism is special because

[Include an interesting fact or description about the plant or tree here. Consider including distinctive features, or sensory descriptions like smell, touch, sound, sight. Consider answering questions such as: Is it native to your region? Is it coniferous or deciduous? Do animals use this plant or tree for food or habitat?]

This sign was provided by the students at: [Your School Name]



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Thank you for exploring nearby nature!

You are looking at a

This organism is special because

This sign was provided by the students at:






Connect With Nearby Nature

Signage Instructions and Templates

Use Your Senses Signage: Instructions

Use Your Senses
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[Insert a picture here]



Looks...

[Describe the appearance of the plant. Note any special characteristics like shapes, colours, etc]

Smells...

[Describe the smell of the plant. Does it smell like something else? Is it an appealing or unpleasant smell?]

Feels...

[Describe how the plant feels to touch. Note any special characteristics like texture, sturdiness, etc]

Sounds...

[Describe any special sounds that connect to the plant. Can you hear animals using it. Or the wind moving it in a special way?]

Please **DO NOT pick or break the plants**. You are welcome to explore with your senses, but be gentle.

This sign was provided by the students at: [Your School Name]



Use Your Senses
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Looks...

Smells...

Feels...

Sounds...

Please **DO NOT pick or break the plants**. You are welcome to explore with your senses, but be gentle.

This sign was provided by the students at:





Connect With Nearby Nature

Signage Instructions and Templates

Ecological Eye Spy Signage: Instructions

Ecological Eye Spy

“Biodiversity” refers to the variety of different living things in an area.
How many different organisms can you spot from this location?

<p>[Insert a picture here]</p>	<p>Name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>[Brief description]</p>
<p>[Insert a picture here]</p>	<p>Name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>[Brief description]</p>
<p>[Insert a picture here]</p>	<p>Name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>[Brief description]</p>
<p>[Insert a picture here]</p>	<p>Name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>[Brief description]</p>
<p>[Insert a picture here]</p>	<p>Name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>[Brief description]</p>

Avoid disturbing habitats by observing from the trail.

This sign was provided by the students at: [Your School Name]



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Signage Instructions and Templates



Ecological Eye Spy

“Biodiversity” refers to the variety of different living things in an area.
How many different organisms can you spot from this location?

Name:

Name:

Name:

Name:

Name:

Avoid disturbing habitats by observing from the trail.

This sign was provided by the students at:

