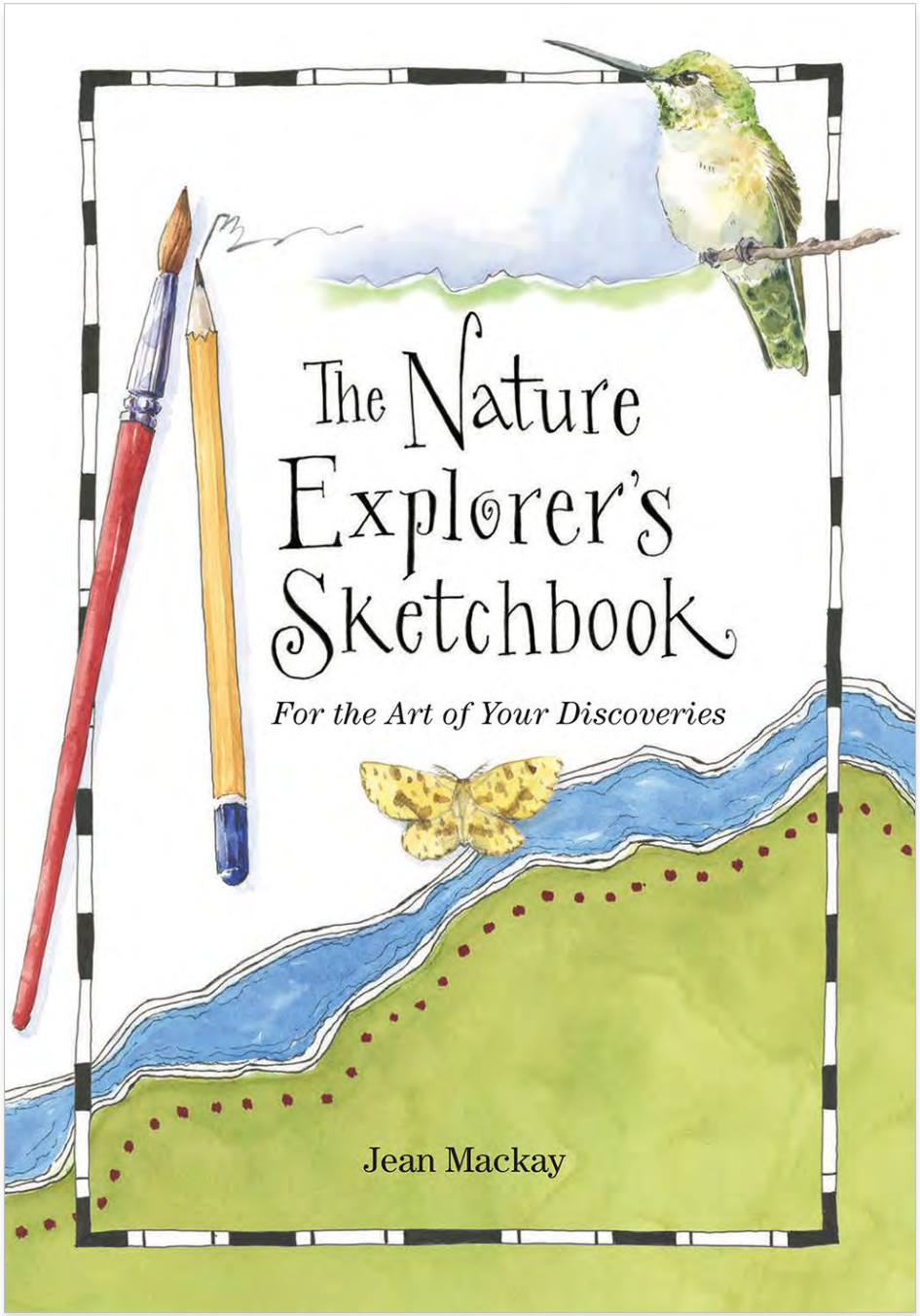


The Nature Explorer's Sketchbook helps kids look more closely at nature and capture what they discover with pencil, pen, and paint.

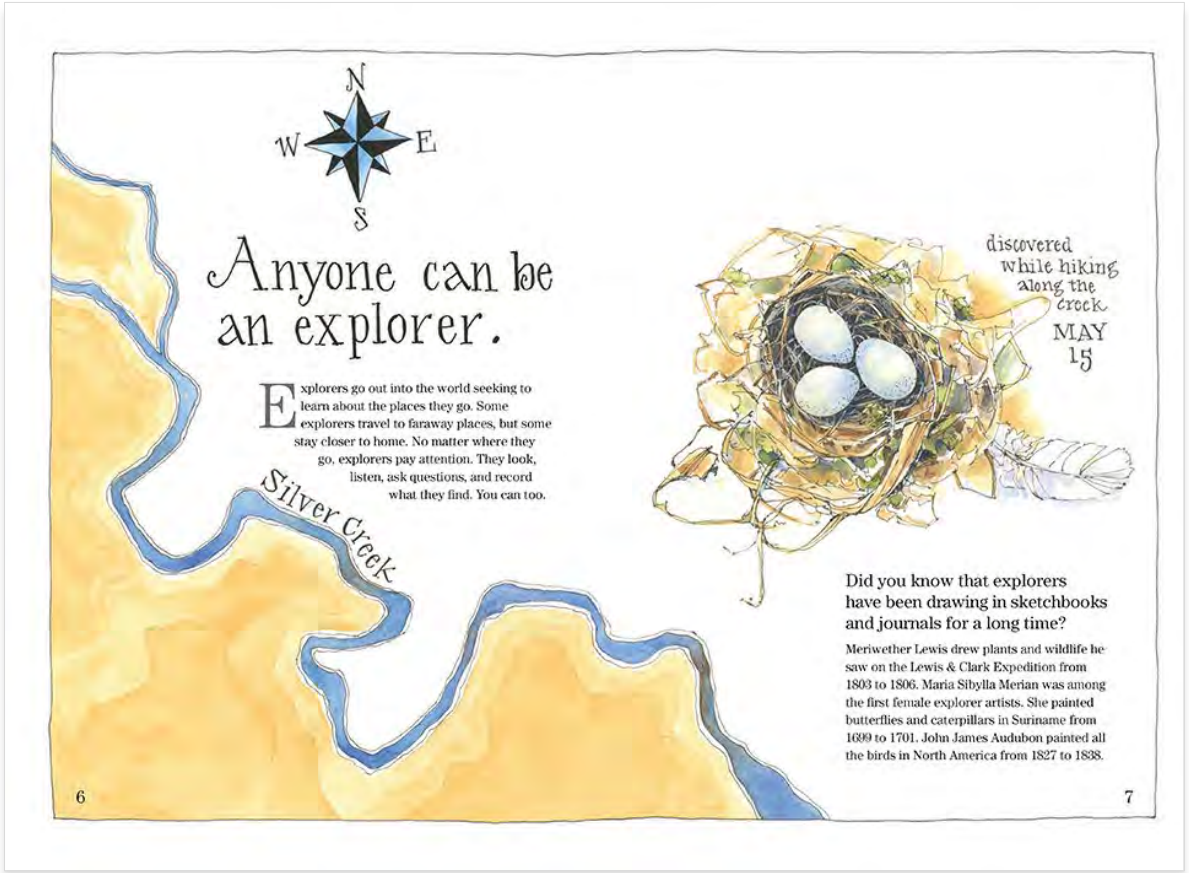
"A child's world is fresh and new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement." – Rachel Carson

Our job is to keep that spark alive.

Basics

The Nature Explorer's Sketchbook inspires exploration, creativity and observation with beautiful sketchbook illustrations, ideas and tips, and plenty of space for kids to draw.

- Target audience: Youth ages 10+.
- Number of pages: 80
- Dimensions: 7"x10"
- $16.95
- Soft cover, with heavy paper suited for sketching with mixed media
- A perfect tool for environmental education programs, STEAM programs, or to give as a gift to young artists and nature lovers.



Encouraging Curiosity

Now, more than ever, exploring close to home is a way to turn the small and modest into the infinite and boundless.

Take a look inside…

28 pages of instruction and color illustrations followed by blank pages for sketching, with more hints and activities every ten pages.

The Sketchbook

"Try this" activities...

30 Train Your Hands to Draw What Your Eyes See

36 Draw as Many Insects as You Can Find in 30 Minutes

42 Make Your Own Trail Map

48 Take the Rainbow Challenge

56 Make a Collection

62 Sketch a Bird

70 Add Some Fun Elements to Your Sketchbook Pages

76 Ask Many Questions

Find grids to use on pages 34, 35, 54, 55, 60, 61 and 72, 73.

You can use pencils, markers, colored pencils, watercolor pencils, or a light wash of watercolor on the paper in this sketchbook. If you find that you really like using watercolors, you may want to try heavier paper that is especially made for use with watercolors.

Try This: Make Your Own Trail Map

It's fun to make a map while hiking on a trail. Don't worry about making the map accurate. Instead, use it as a way to name and record the special things you find.

1. Mark a starting point for the beginning of the trail.
2. As you walk, look for interesting things that you can record. When you find something, make a small sketch and name the spot.
3. Move on until something else catches your attention. Give the place a name and make another sketch.
4. Make eight to ten stops and connect them with a dotted or dashed line for the path you walked.
5. Make a label for your map. Even if the place you hiked already has a name, you can give it one of your own.

You can make the map just for yourself, or to share with friends or family. Ask your family or friends to follow your path and try to find the things you drew.

What people are saying…

- "A wonderful tool for beginning journals. The prompts and examples will inspire you to use your journal pages in new and creative ways that will bring you closer to nature."
  John Muir Laws, Author of *The Laws Guide to Nature Drawing and Journaling*

- "Jean shows you how you too can capture beautiful images of nature, spend quality time in the field, and learn to be an integral part of the place your feet are planted."
  Cathy Johnson, Author of *The Sierra Club Guide to Sketching in Nature* and *Artist Journal Workshop*

- "Brimming with charming illustrations and a multitude of insightful nature exploration activities that will delight not only the young adventurers for whom the book is designed, but also adults who have wanted to try nature journaling. This is your new favorite book to keep at home and take on vacation!"
  Susan Snyder, artist and teacher-naturalist at Ogden Nature Center, Ogden, UT

About the Author

Artist and educator Jean Mackay has been exploring and sketching nature for more than 25 years.

Working in all kinds of settings, from tide pools to farm fields to her own backyard in Upstate New York, Jean's journals reflect a keen eye for detail and profound sense of wonder.

Jean teaches each summer at the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine. Discover the ordinary, yet extraordinary things that she encounters close to home and farther afield on her blog, *Drawn In: www.jeanmackayart.com.*

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