

**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.

The world is a **BIG** and

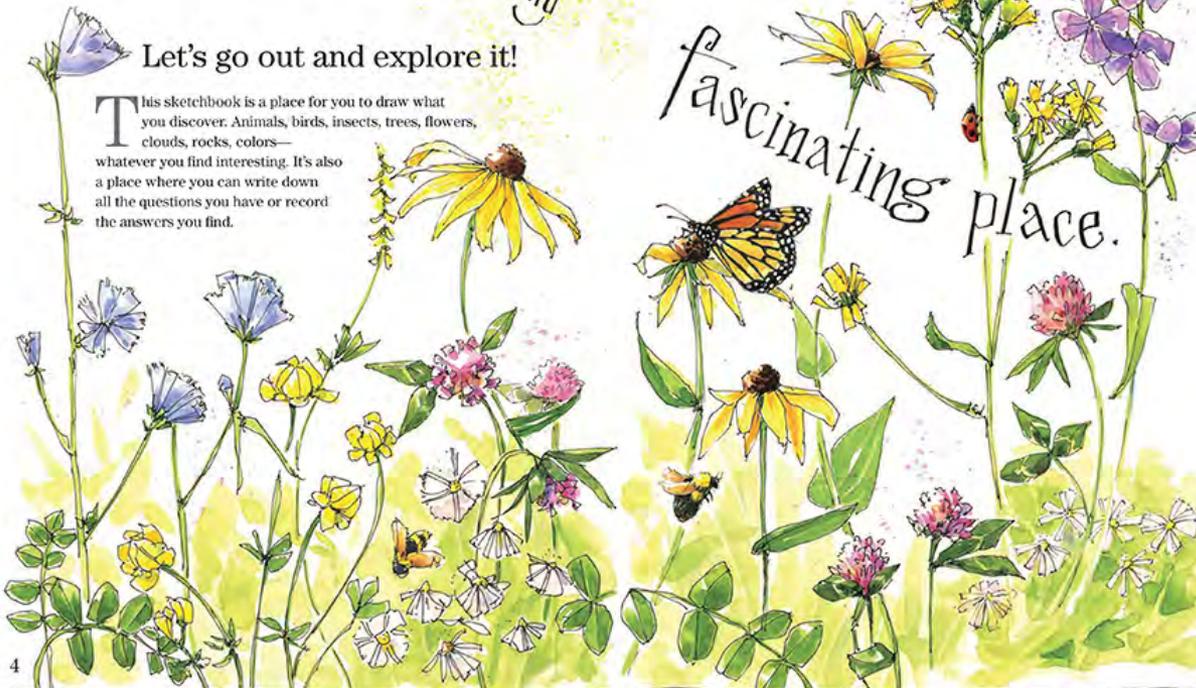
Let’s go out and explore it!

**T**his sketchbook is a place for you to draw what you discover. Animals, birds, insects, trees, flowers, clouds, rocks, colors—whatever you find interesting. It’s also a place where you can write down all the questions you have or record the answers you find.

One of the best parts about keeping a sketchbook is that it’s just for you. Your sketchbook can be messy or neat. It can be full of drawings or words or both. You can use a pencil, pen, colored pencils, or paint.

*You make your own rules.*

fascinating place.



# Basics

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**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.





Anyone can be  
an explorer.

Explorers go out into the world seeking to learn about the places they go. Some explorers travel to faraway places, but some stay closer to home. No matter where they go, explorers pay attention. They look, listen, ask questions, and record what they find. You can too.

Silver Creek



discovered  
while hiking  
along the  
creek.  
MAY  
15

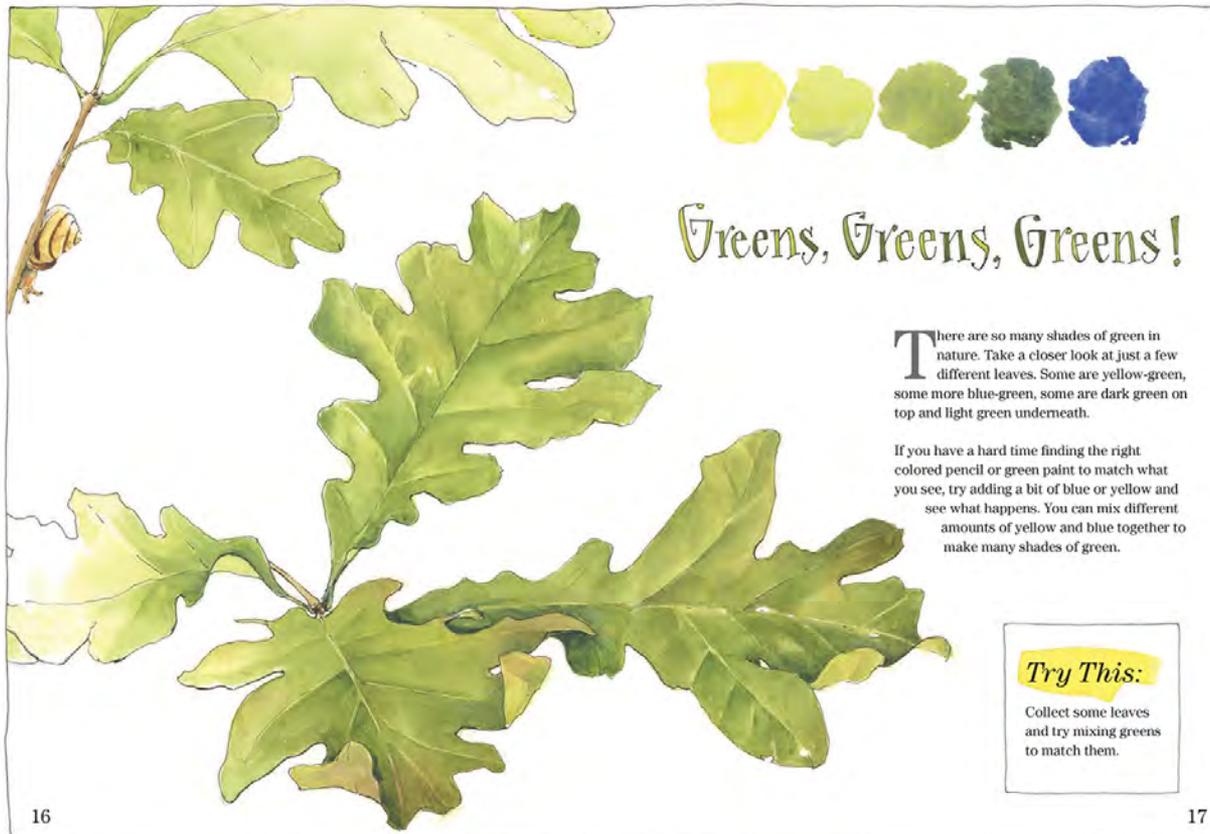
Did you know that explorers  
have been drawing in sketchbooks  
and journals for a long time?

Meriwether Lewis drew plants and wildlife he saw on the Lewis & Clark Expedition from 1803 to 1806. Maria Sibylla Merian was among the first female explorer artists. She painted butterflies and caterpillars in Suriname from 1699 to 1701. John James Audubon painted all the birds in North America from 1827 to 1838.

# 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

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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](http://www.jeanmackayart.com).

# To Pre-Order

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