

Red-tail Kids Club

RED-TAIL LAND CONSERVANCY, INC.



Hi, I'm Reddy Red-tail!

I am lucky because I get to spend most of my days soaring high in the sky. Sometimes I sit perched on a tree watching over the land where I live, and sometimes I fly low over the fields looking for food to eat.

Sadly most creatures like you get to spend very little time out in nature. This is sad indeed because nature needs you, and you need nature.

I want you to get outside and explore nature. The best way to learn about my friends and the world I live in is to be curious.

That means getting dirty, smelling things, touching things, and asking questions. I have some ideas that might help you to have fun adventures outdoors.

See you outside!



Why do some trees stay green all year?
How do birds know to fly south?
Why is it getting darker earlier each day?
Where have the Monarch butterflies gone?

What is happening outside now that it's Autumn? You may already be seeing leaves changing from summer green to bright Fall colors and falling to the ground. Why is this happening?

In summer leaves are bright green because they have a pigment called chlorophyll inside. Chlorophyll is one of the things leaves use to make the sugar trees need to grow. In Fall there are not as many hours of daylight and temperatures become cooler. This sends a signal to trees that it's time to stop making sugar. Chlorophyll isn't needed and the green color starts to fade away.

You begin to see the bright orange, yellow, red and purple leaves of Fall. The yellow and orange colors we see were always in the leaves, just hidden by the green chlorophyll. Some trees will use leftover sugars to make red and purple leaves now. Wind and rain can pull brightly colored leaves from the trees. As the weather turns colder the trees shed their remaining leaves and they fall to the ground.

Next time you're outside this Fall look for three leaves of different colors that came from the same tree. How many falling leaves can you catch?

Reddy's Nature Journal

Autumn is a great time to go outside and see how trees change. Choose one tree and visit it several times during the Fall months. Notice how the colors change each time you visit. Do you see any nuts or seeds? When does your tree lose all its leaves? **Draw pictures in your journal each time you visit.**

My friends at Red-tail Land Conservancy protect many wild places where you can explore nature. They also have free nature journals you can take with you. Ask your parents to call the office and pick one up.

I hope to spy you out exploring nature soon.



🔍 Let's Explore

Hawks have very good eyes. This helps us spot food when we are flying high above the ground.

Try to spy these things as you explore the outdoors:

- a mushroom on a tree
- bright red berries
- an orange and yellow leaf
- something brown that used to be green
- Squirrels burying nuts
- Animal tracks in the mud

What else can you find?

♥️ Caring for Nature

You can help take care of the land and my friends.

After raking leaves there are some good ways to reuse them. Shred the leaves and cover your garden for the winter. Instead of placing them in plastic bags and sending to the landfill. Help keep the air clean by adding leaves to a compost pile instead of burning. The leaves will break down over the winter and you can use the new soil to grow seeds in the spring.

How else can you help?

😊 Just for Fun

There are lots of fun things to do outside in Autumn.

- Honk back at the geese flying overhead
- Place a pile of acorns under a tree to see what eats them
- Dance like a falling leaf
- Make an animal burrow in a pile of leaves
- Plant a tree that will have berries for the birds next year

What is your favorite outdoor activity?



See ya' in the woods.

Visit www.fortheland.org to learn more about my friends at Red-tail Land Conservancy and how you can support their work to preserve natural places. You can find properties to visit, learn about upcoming events, and get involved helping to protect nature.