

# explorium

## Cool Field Notebook

Greetings fellow nerds! Do you like nature? Do you think animals are awesome? Would you like to be a scientist one day?

**Yes?** Well that's awesome because we are going start right now. Today we are going to get into some Zoology. This is the type of science all about animals.

What we are going to do is start what is called a "Field Notebook". This is where you keep all your fieldnotes (obvious). Now what are fieldnotes? Well fieldnotes are the notes taken by Scientists of their observations (stuff they see). And this is the difference between just seeing stuff and going "ohhhhh isn't that cool" and being a scientist.

## Soooooooooooooooooooooooooooo LETS BE SCIENTISTS!

### Things you will need:

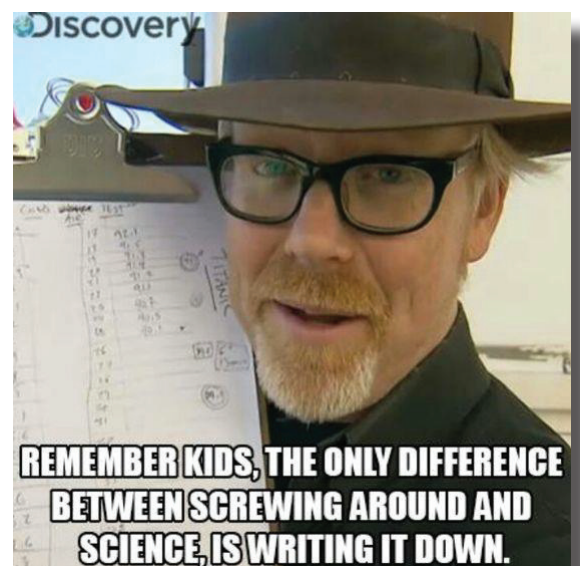
- ▶ **A small hardback notebook** (but if you don't have one that's cool, you can use an old copybook if you have one lying around, let's not be wasteful)
- ▶ **Pens.** All the pens you want. If you just want a pencil that's alright, if you love pens of all kinds and colours, go for it, be creative, let your inner weird out.
- ▶ **Colouring pencils.** I prefer these since I can blend them, and most animals never seem to be the simple 12 colours in a packet of markers.

**An adult to be your assistant.**

### Things that might be awesome to have:

- ▶ Anything with an internet connection you can look things up on, or just wait till you get back to a computer. (Now remember to ask for permission when using the internet or borrowing anybody's fancy camera/binoculars, we wouldn't want to get in trouble now would we?)

'Adam Savage from the wonderful Discovery Show Mythbusters knows what it's all about!'



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► **Location**; this is super important, always include the location. You can just give it a name or you can use map locations, whatever you want.

► **Date and Time**; this is also very important because most of what goes on in nature is very controlled by the time of year. This is because time of year will change how much food is around, how warm it is, and what other animals might be around. Its all connected, keeping notes will help you see these patterns.

► **Species**; you might not know when you see it but do leave a space so you can fill in the name once you do your research. I have only used common names for now, but don't worry we will get to scientific names one day.

► **Numbers**: this is important, some animals like to live in groups while others like to be alone.

► **Gender**; are they girls or boys? Now this is a tricky one, most of the time we can't tell (and its rude to ask) but you might find some birds have different coloured feathers if they are female for example, just like house sparrows.

► **What are they up to?**; this is important too, you want to take a few notes on their behaviour. Were they sleeping, flying, eating, fighting?

► **Draw a picture**; This part is very important. When you draw something, you need to really take notice and pay attention to the little things. This will help you learn to recognise these species again next time you see one. Now don't worry about being an artist, this notebook is for you. Unless you are me and have to post it on the internet .

► **But check it out!** I did not know before that the honey bee had a really fluffy head. Oh and don't forget labels. Labels make everything officially fancy.

