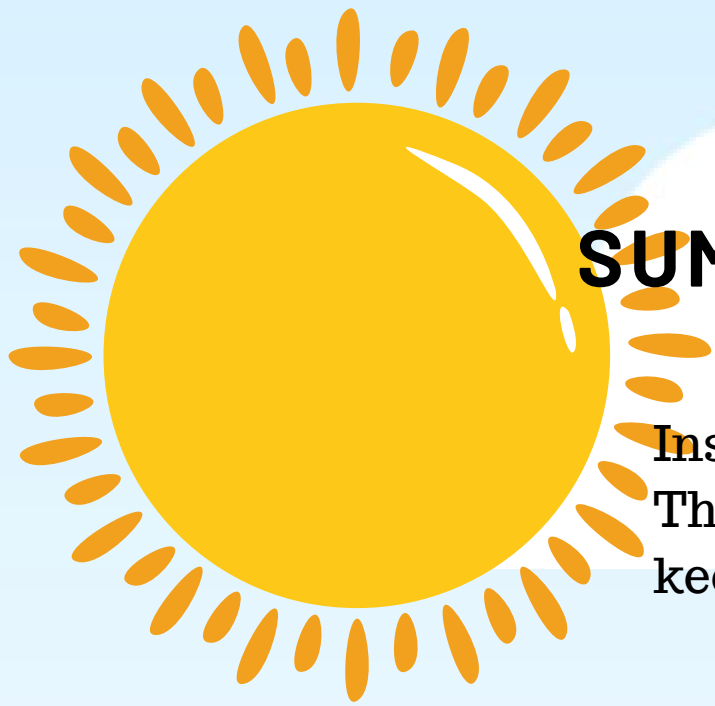




USI Trails

SUMMER TIME INSECT SEARCH

Insects abound on the trails at USI. They have very important jobs in keeping the woods healthy.

Can you find a pollinator?

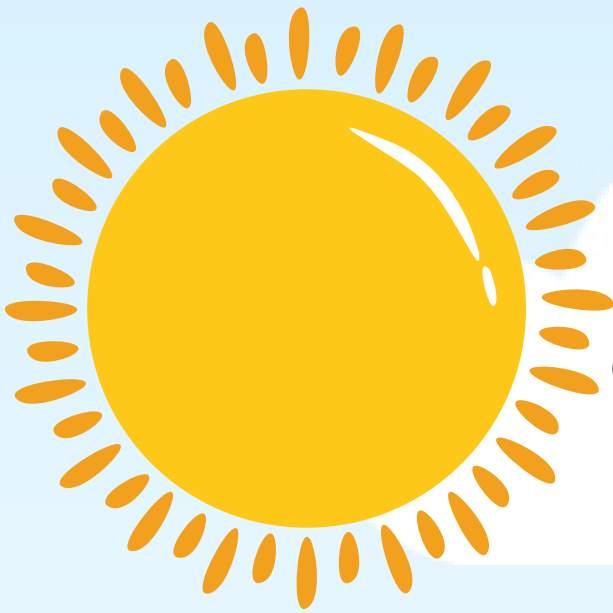
Most of the time pollinators fly. Sometimes they crawl on the ground. They move from flower to flower, so plants can produce fruits and seeds. Here's a hint: butterflies and ants are pollinators. Go out to the Pollinating Field off the Burdette Trail and see how many you find. Draw a picture of your favorite pollinators here:



Can you find a decomposer?

What is a decomposer? It eats and eats and eats. It decomposes leaves, fallen branches and wastes left in the woods. Turn over a log and you'll find some decomposers. Here's a hint: worms and ants. Draw a picture of the decomposer you found right here:



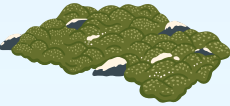
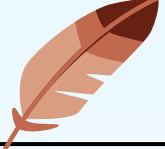
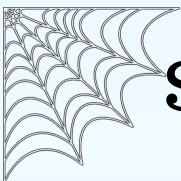
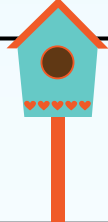


USI Trails

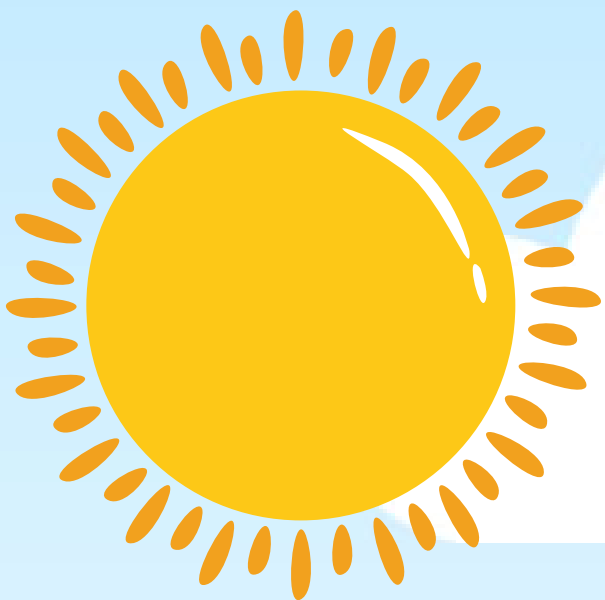
SUMMER TIME SCAVEGER HUNT

Cross off when you find each of these things found on around USI's many trails on campus.

This worksheet was inspired by USI Teacher Education candidates.

Acorn 	 Little fish	 Moss
Feather 	 Mushroom	Fern Leaf 
 Spiderweb	Pinecone 	 Algae
Tree Rings	Bee 	 Bird
Cool Rock 	 Dandelion	Bird house 

USI's trails, including the two lakes and the Outdoor Education Center have an abundance of natural life to admire. Always be aware that when you are in the woods, there are all sorts of slippery surfaces, insects and plants to be cautious of. Make sure you look and don't touch. Better yet, take a photo so you can draw it in your nature journal! We recommend the free nature app Seek by iNaturalist if you are wanting to learn about the nature found on the USI Trails.

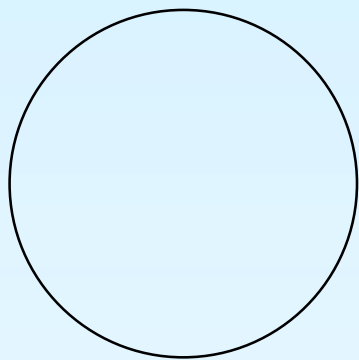


USI Trails

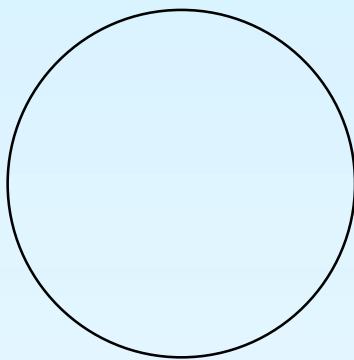
SUMMER TIME LEAF SEARCH

Searching for leaves is fun if you use the app Seek, by iNaturalist. Best of all it's free! When you find the leaf, draw it below. These trees are found on our trails.

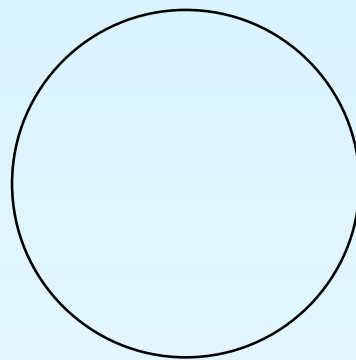
This worksheet was inspired by USI Teacher education candidates



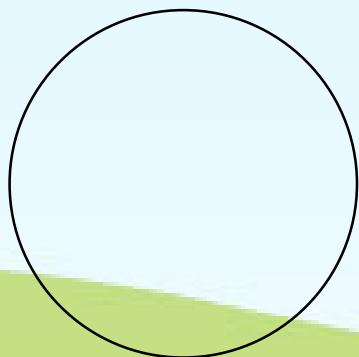
Tulip-our state tree



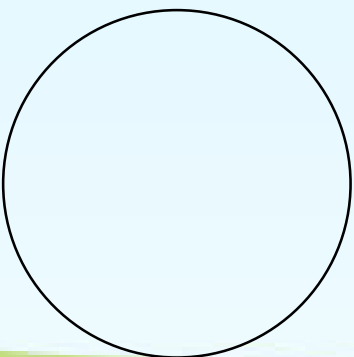
Pawpaw



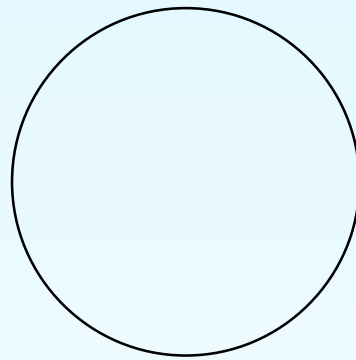
Basswood



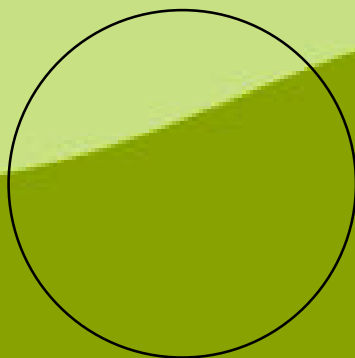
Oak



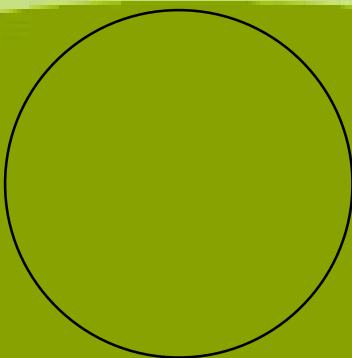
American Sweet Gum



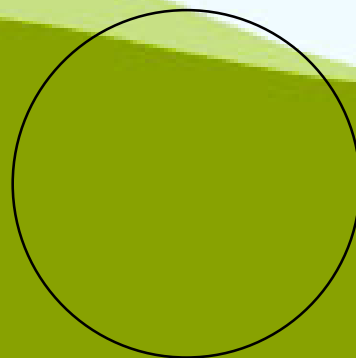
Eastern Redbud



Walnut



Sassafras



Elm



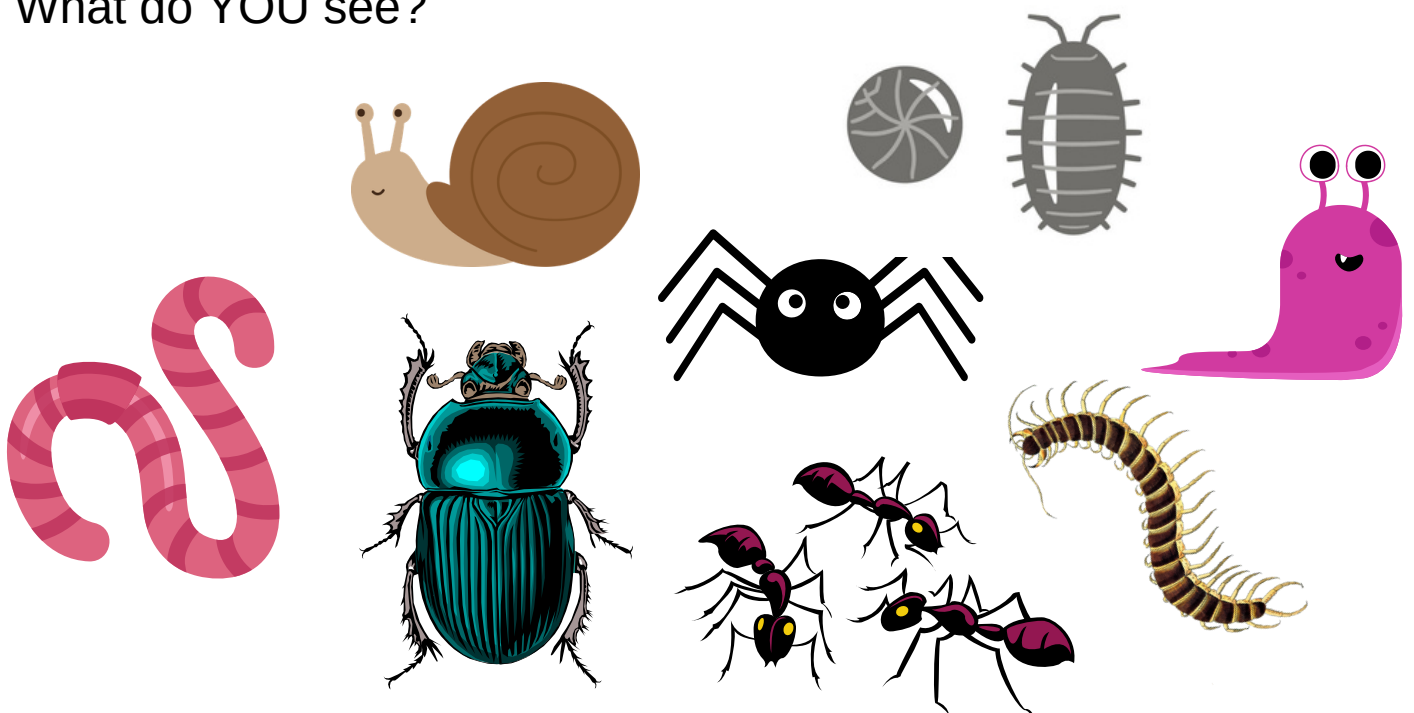
USI Trails

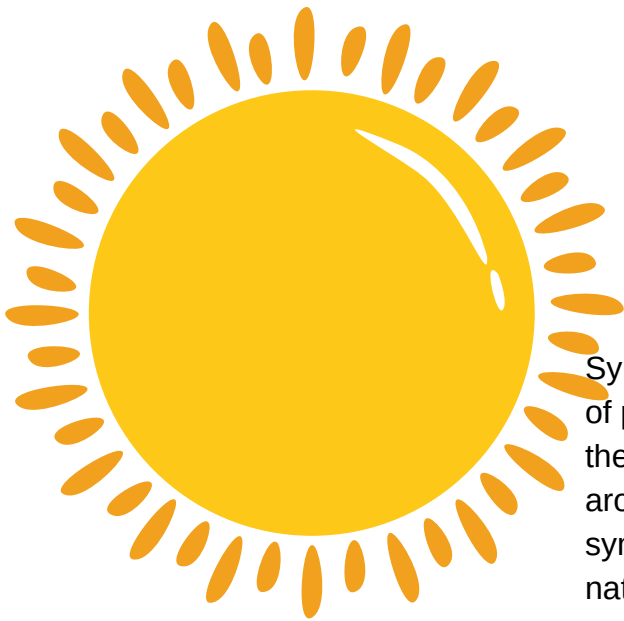
WHAT'S UNDER THE LOG

There's a lot of cool things going on in the woods, especially under logs. Just roll one over and check out the ecosystem going on underneath!



What do YOU see?



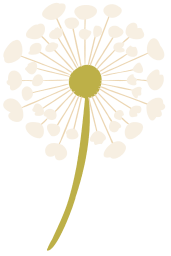


USI Trails

IS IT SYMETRICAL?

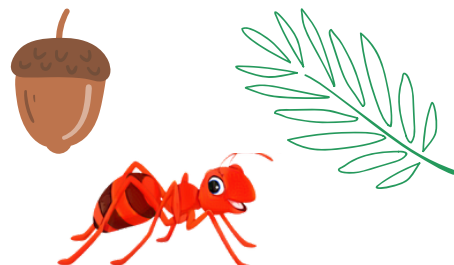
Symmetry in plants occurs when there is an orderly repetition of parts around a central point. For example, in a dandelion, the fluffy white seeds are arranged in an orderly repetition around the central head of the plant. This is called radial symmetry. There are LOTS of examples of radial symmetry in nature.

Find some examples of radial and reflective symmetry on the USI Trails



Item	Radial Symmetry	Reflective Symmetry

Reflection symmetry occurs when you can draw a line right down something and the left side is the same as the right side-it's reflective. For example, if you cut an ant down the middle, the left side is reflective of the right side. Same thing with a leaf!



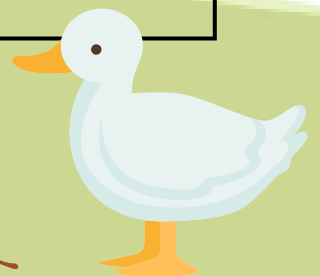


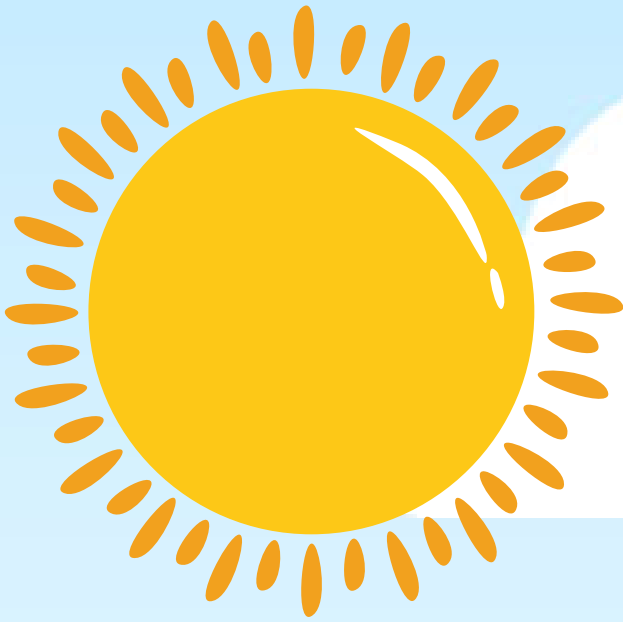
USI Trails

DOES IT SINK OR FLOAT?

Collect items on your walk through the USI Trails and make predictions: will it sink or float? Record your prediction then visit Reflection or Fountain Lake and test out your prediction. Where you right?

Item	Prediction	Conclusion





USI Trails

NATURE'S SHAPES

There's all sorts of cool shapes in nature. Make sure you look up and down on the trails to get an idea of how many shapes there are and where they lay or hang.

See how many of each shape you can find on the trails. Graph each each shape you find below.

Square	Circle	Oval	Triangle	Rectangle



USI Trails

PAINTING WITH NATURE

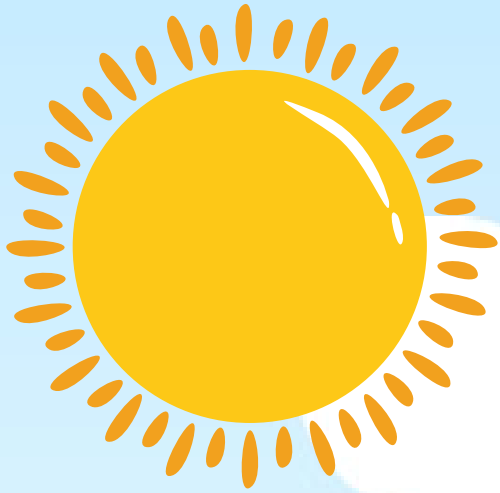
USI has many, many pretty wild flowers and leaves you can use for this activity. Bring a gallon plastic ziplock bag and put a damp paper towel in the bag to keep your leaves and flowers fresh until you get home and can "paint".

As you walk on campus and on the trails, make sure you don't pick flowers from the beds on campus. The best flowers to use are flat ones. If you use anything with a distinct middle, it's too thick. But you can use the leaves.

Bring your flowers home and put them face down on a piece of white paper or cloth. Put a paper towel over the flowers. And begin to hammer the backs of the flowers, through the paper towel.

Good flowers to use: phlox, dandelions, multiflora rose, pansies, violets, goldenrod wood sorrell, ferns, red dead nettle, clover and any type of leaf

This worksheet was inspired by USI Teacher Education candidates



USI Trails

LEAF RUBBINGS

Bring a bag with you on your walk and collect a variety of tree leaves. Remember, leaves of three, let them be! For fun, use the Seek app to discover what trees your leaves are from. The best leaves are fairly fresh ones, any season. They will hold up best under the pressure of the rubbing.

When you get home, put your leaves under a piece of white paper and rub your crayon back and forth to see your leaf rubbing appear.

How many leaves can you fit on your paper?

Label the following parts of your leaves:

- Axil/petiole
- leaf blade
- mid rib
- vein/veinlet
- lamina
- tip





USI Trails

PINE CONE SCIENCE



Did you know that you can use a pine cone to predict the weather! Actually you can use many things in nature to predict weather, but pine cones are the easiest. There are many pine trees on the Disc Golf Trails and on USI's campus. Collect a variety of them.

Line them up near a window with their bottoms sitting in a cup or glass . Every day, check the weather. When it's going to be rainy, the pine cone's scales are tight against it's body. When it's hot and dry, the scales are open.

Graph how many times your pine cones correctly predict the weather.

This worksheet was inspired by
USI Teacher Education candidates

Week	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
Week 1							
Week 2							
Week 3							
Week 4							

