



# THE ADVENTURES OF NATURE NATE

*A nature-based lesson on storytelling  
for preschool and elementary ages*

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**THIS LESSON IS FUN TO DO OUTSIDE!**

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**Supplies needed:**

- Scissors
- Glue
- Three pieces of cardstock
- Pocket Naturalist Guide: Pond Life by James Kavanagh
- Nine popsicle sticks
- Optional: notebook paper for students to write their stories (can also discuss out loud)
- Optional: small sticks, vines, and rocks found outside (or let the students go find this themselves during the lesson!)
- Nature Nate's Honey Packets
- Bowl
- Dirt
- Water

**Objective:**

- Learn the elements of storytelling
- Activate creativity
- Learn to be resourceful with things found in nature
- Engage in creative problem solving
- Identify different species of birds, fish, and insects
- Learn new vocabulary
- Identify elements commonly found in nature
- Learn geography and understand physical map reading
- Understand how water can affect things found in nature
- Matching
- Sensory activity: taste honey

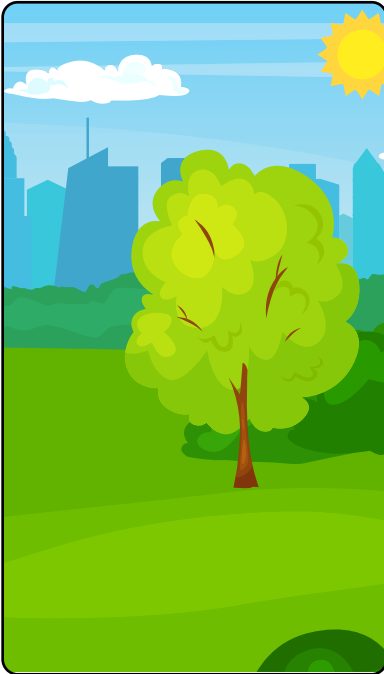
# TELLING A STORY

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## *The elements of a story:*

### SETTINGS

Place, description  
of surroundings



### EVENTS

What happens to the characters  
in the setting?



### CHARACTERS

Names, personality,  
description



## *Words to Learn*

- PHYSICAL MAP
- CHARACTER
- SETTING
- EVENT
- PERSONALITY

- DESCRIPTION
- TRI-FOLD
- HONEY
- BAIT
- INSECTS



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# BUILD YOUR CHARACTER

Cut them out and glue a popsicle stick onto each one on the back.  
This will allow you to hold them.

## JOKESTER JEFF

Is always telling jokes



## NATURE NATE

Leads the gang  
into adventures



## RANGER RACHEL

Loves numbers and facts



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# BUILD THE SETTING

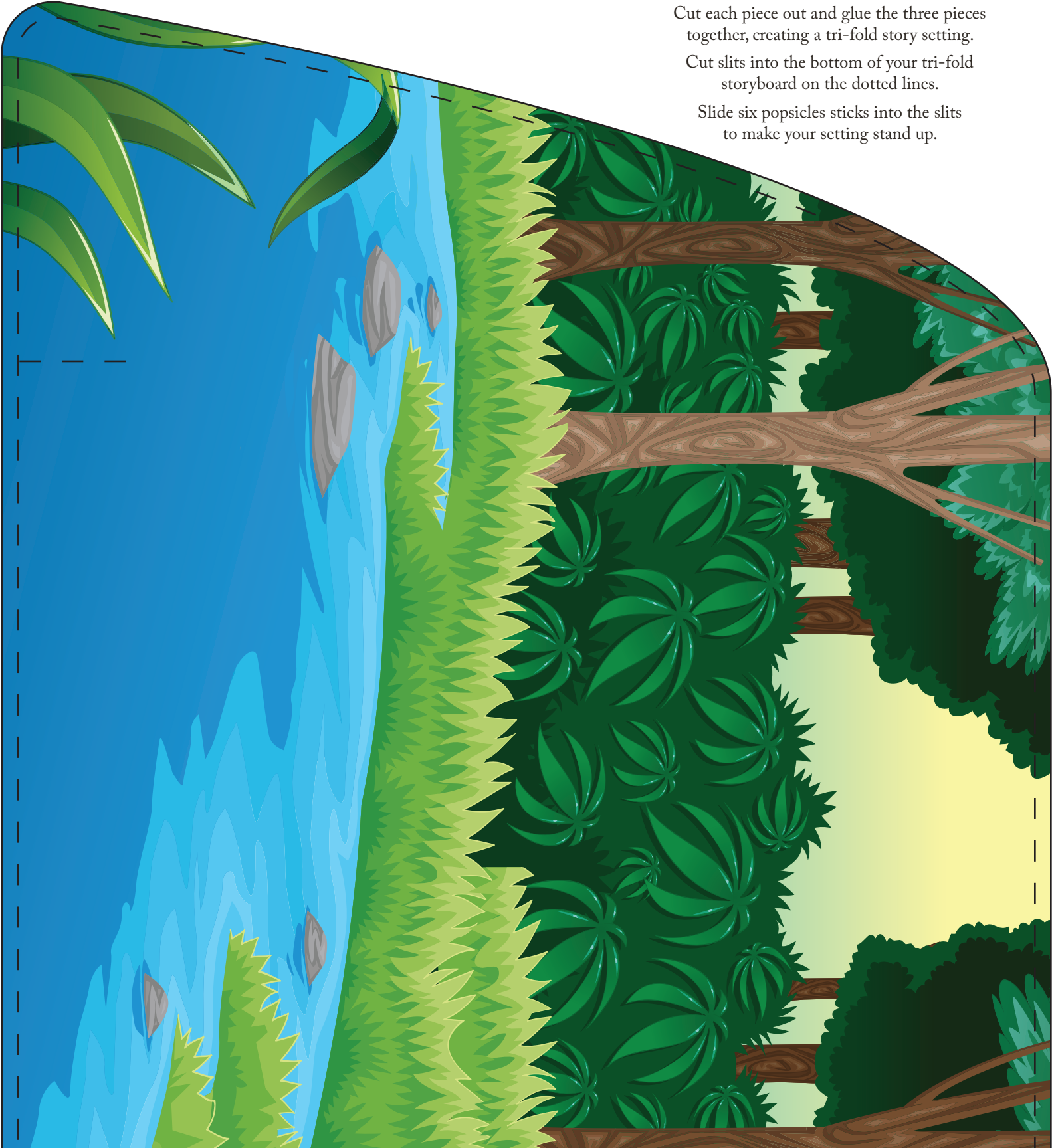
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Glue entire setting sheets to sturdy cardstock.

Cut each piece out and glue the three pieces together, creating a tri-fold story setting.

Cut slits into the bottom of your tri-fold storyboard on the dotted lines.

Slide six popsicle sticks into the slits to make your setting stand up.





GLUE HERE



GLUE HERE



**EXAMPLE**



Where in the world are they?  
Look on a physical map for green  
forest area and decide where they are!

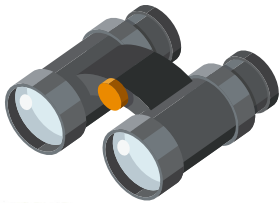
# THE ADVENTURES OF NATURE NATE

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Let's read the story, and as we go, help us build the event!

Cut out the binoculars. What are they used for?

Cut the birds out and glue them into the setting.



**NATURE NATE LED RANGER RACHEL AND JOKESTER JEFF OUT THE FRONT DOOR AND THROUGH THE YARD. HE SAID, "LET'S GO TO THE FOREST!"**

**AND RANGER RACHEL SAID, "DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE MORE THAN 10,000 KINDS OF BIRDS IN THE WORLD?"**

**AND JOKESTER JEFF SAID, "WHAT DID THE EAGLE SAY WHEN HE WAS COLD? BIIIIIIIRD." JOKESTER JEFF WAS ALWAYS MAKING JOKES.**

**NATURE NATE GRABBED HIS BINOCULARS AND PUT THEM AROUND HIS NECK.**

**THEN HE PASSED THE BINOCULARS OVER TO RANGER RACHEL. "HOW MANY BIRDS DO YOU SEE?" HE ASKED.**

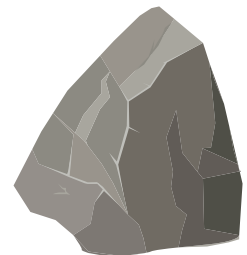
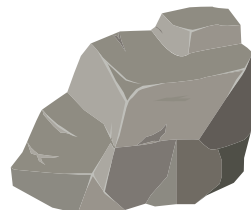
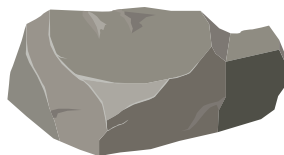
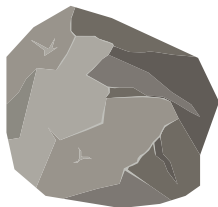
Now you tell the rest of the events in the story. What happens?

# INSPECTING INSECTS

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Color the insects, cut them out, and glue them where they might live in the forest.

Now you tell the rest of the events in the story.  
What happens?



**NATURE NATE SAID, "LET'S LOOK FOR SOME BUGS!"**

**AND RANGER RACHEL SAID, "DID YOU KNOW THAT CATERPILLARS HAVE TWELVE EYES?"**

**AND JOKESTER JEFF SAID, "WHY WAS THE ANT SO CONFUSED? BECAUSE ALL HIS UNCLES WERE ANTS!" JOKESTER JEFF WAS ALWAYS MAKING JOKES. JOKESTER JEFF PULLED A MAGNIFYING GLASS OUT OF HIS POCKET AND LOOKED CLOSELY AT THE BUG NEAR HIM.**

**THEN HE PASSED THE MAGNIFYING GLASS TO NATURE NATE WHO SPOTTED A HONEY BEE, HIS FAVORITE KIND OF INSECT. "LOOK! THIS HONEY BEE LANDED ON MY FINGER!" HE SAID.**

**AND RANGER RACHEL SAID, "DID YOU KNOW THAT IT TAKES ABOUT TWELVE HONEY BEES TO MAKE JUST ONE TEASPOON OF HONEY?"**

**AND JOKESTER JEFF SAID, "WOW! YOU MUST BEE POLLEN MY LEG!" JOKESTER JEFF WAS ALWAYS MAKING JOKES.**

Have you ever tasted honey? Try it now and thank a honey bee!



# GOING FISHING

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Can you find things found in nature to make a fishing pole for your characters with?

Check these things off your list as you find them.

- ☐ Something that looks like a pole
- ☐ Something that looks like a string or fishing line
- ☐ Something that will help your line sink in water
- ☐ Bait (or cut your bait out from the sheet and stick onto your line)

Did you know that the bottom of a pond is mud? Many plants, animals, and insects live underwater in ponds. Grab a bowl, fill it with dirt, and then pour water into the dirt. This mud is just like the mud at the bottom of a pond.

What lives in the pond? Use your naturalist guide. Cut them out and glue them in or around the water.

**NATURE NATE WANTED TO GO FISHING. "LET'S BUILD FISHING POLES AND TRY TO CATCH SOMETHING IN THE POND," HE SAID.**

**AND RANGER RACHEL SAID, "DID YOU KNOW THAT THE SMALLEST FISH IN THE WORLD IS LESS THAN ONE THIRD OF AN INCH?"**

**AND JOKESTER JEFF SAID, "WHY DID THE FISH BLUSH? BECAUSE IT SAW THE POND'S BOTTOM." JOKESTER JEFF WAS ALWAYS MAKING JOKES.**

**NATURE NATE TOSSED HIS LINE INTO THE POND.**

Tell us the rest of the events of the story.

What happened next? How does the story end?



**WHAT OTHER STORIES CAN YOU MAKE UP ABOUT NATURE NATE AND HIS CREW?**