

LILY & THISTLE



NATURE'S ART CLUB

Guided Syllabus

Welcome to Nature's Art Club! We are so excited to have you join with many other families who want to make nature and art part of their life. Exploring the world around us not only is good for your soul, but also finds ways to make meaningful connections with your children.

We want to provide this guide for you to use as just that - a "guide" of resources. We do NOT want you to feel overwhelmed by the content that is available. This truly could be a multi-year guide to help you make connections in nature through art.

This Guided Syllabus is broken up into 3 sections:

1. What's Included - which breaks down all the different content that can be found in Nature's Art Club and what is included in each section so you can pick and choose what you want to use.
2. Preparing for the Year - which guides you for any prep work you should do before beginning any lessons or content, including links to supply lists and intro videos that parents can watch before beginning that section
3. Guided Content Plan - which is the month by month guided content plan for each section of the course if you want to follow a plan.

As I mentioned above, please use this truly as a guide and feel free to pick and choose only the content that works for you and your family. Our goal is to include content that can be used by all ages at anytime and anywhere in the world.

We hope that you find this guide helpful and it can allow you to truly make meaningful connections with your family. If you ever need any help, please reach out to support@lilyandthistle.com - we are here for you and cheering you on!

Your friend in Nature,



Hannah

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What's Included?

Watercolor Painting & Educational Packets (all ages)

The watercolor painting tutorials is recommended to be used throughout the entire year. The materials align with the typical northern hemisphere seasons, however, the paintings can be done in any order and do NOT build on each other. Feel free to pick and choose as you see fit.

There are 24 watercolor painting tutorials that include a step-by-step video tutorial and tracing template so that students can focus on the painting aspect and not learning how to draw. There is also a coloring page included for those students who don't wish to trace their image or for younger artists who wish to color instead.

Also included in the Watercolor Painting Tutorial section are additional educational materials that accompany each of the 24 subjects in nature. These materials include a list of fun facts, links to family-friendly educational videos related to the subject in nature, observation prompts and worksheet, and an original poem.

In addition to the 24 paintings provided, there are also 23 additional bonus watercolor paintings that are featured from the Lily & Thistle Watercolor School seasonal bundles. These bonuses include the painting tutorials and outlines, but do not include the additional educational materials featured with our original 24 subjects in nature.

Drawing Tutorials (ages 8+)

There are 12 drawing tutorials that include a step-by-step video tutorial that guides students through learning to draw nature related items without any previous drawing experience. Each lesson focuses on four drawing exercises so that students learn how to bring their subject to life on the page. The drawing tutorials are recommended for students ages 8 and above, but younger students are more than welcome to try depending on their interest. We do recommend doing the drawing tutorials before starting the Colored Pencil tutorials section.

Colored Pencil Tutorials (ages 8-10+)

The colored pencil tutorials, featuring guest instructor Anna Stunkel, include a step-by-step video tutorial for each of our 5 subjects in nature. These tutorials focus on shading and blending colors to bring colored pencil drawings to life. This material is recommended to be completed after the drawing tutorials section has been finished. This content is recommended for ages 8-10+ and depending on the student's interest.



What's Included?

Nature Journaling (all ages)

The nature journaling section includes a 5-part video guide for parents to learn more about nature journaling. This section also includes additional activities that parents can use to get their kids out in nature, as well as activities that can be used during nature walks. Also, included are tips for parents to use for their own nature journals.

Nature journaling is the perfect way to practice art skills that you are learning and bring things you see to life on a nature walk. It gets you and your children out in nature connecting with the world around you. Nature Journaling truly is meant for all ages and can be done easily on paper, in a special notebook, or in our Nature Journal which can be printed at home or purchased on Amazon.

Nature Activities & Crafts (all ages)

The nature activities and crafts section includes both video content as well as a printable PDF of activities. The video content will help you to find activities you can do with your family out in nature as well as how advice and tips on how humans can respect nature.

Additionally, the Invitations to Nature eBook is a downloadable PDF that can be printed for easy access to over 45 nature activities for all ages. Many of these materials needed for the projects can be gathered on nature walks, completed during nature walks, and even documented in your nature journals.

Birding 101 (ages 8+)

The Birding 101 section is a beginner's guide on learning more about birds. Our guest instructor and biologist, Anna Stunkel, guides you through listening, sketching, and studying birds. This content includes 5 videos and additional resources to continue learning more about birds in your local area. This section can be used by all ages and provides for great prompts for nature journaling during nature walks.

Also included in this section is the Backyard Bird Bundle course to enjoy more bird specific art lessons. The link to the course is inside Nature's Art Club, which includes watercolor painting tutorials of 12 different birds. This section can be a great way to discover new species in other parts of the world and also create a monthly calendar with children of all ages. There are watercolor outline templates included for each painting similar to our other watercolor projects.



Preparing for the Year

Watercolor Tutorials & Educational Packets (all ages)

To prepare for the watercolor painting section, we suggest to do the following before starting for the year.

- Read the introduction lesson to learn more about supplies and organization tips
- Watch the introduction to watercolor techniques basics (optional - with our paintings, many children are ready to dive right in, so this video is optional and for those artists who want to learn more about different techniques.)
- Purchase supplies (check out this link for a list of supplies which includes options for younger artists that are less expensive)
- Printing educational packets that include watercolor outlines, coloring pages, and educational materials

There is enough content to complete 4 tutorials per month for an entire calendar year. In the guided syllabus there is only one bonus painting in November, so that month only has 3 tutorials. Also, a note to remember that the educational materials are only included with our main watercolor paintings and not the bonus paintings.

Drawing & Colored Pencil Tutorials (ages 8+)

Both the Drawing and Colored Pencil Tutorials build on each other. We suggest first reviewing the Drawing content, then once that section is completed to move on to the Colored Pencil section. To prepare for the drawing and colored pencil tutorials sections, the following should be reviewed:

- Watch the Introduction to Drawing video
- Watch the Introduction to Supplies & Lines video (just the supplies portion)
- Purchase all Drawing course supplies
- Watch the Introduction to Colored Pencil supplies
- Purchase all Colored Pencil Drawing supplies

The Drawing Tutorials section has enough material to complete 2-3 lessons per month for 5 months. However, techniques from the drawing section will likely be practiced if the student is also doing Nature Journaling or other sketching activities.

The Colored Pencil Tutorials section has 2 introduction lessons and 5 colored pencil projects. Depending on the student's interest, these projects can take as little as 30 minutes to complete, but they can also take multiple days. We suggest doing one colored pencil project per month.



Preparing for the Year

Nature Journaling (all ages)

Nature Journaling really requires only paper and a pencil. That's it! We do go over other helpful supplies that are great to use when going on nature walks and nature journaling. To prepare for the year we suggest to do the following:

- Watch the Parents Guide to Nature Journaling 5-part video series
- Purchase supplies for nature journaling
- Gather any additional materials needed for nature walks or other
- Print a copy of the Phenology Wheel template for tracing

There are enough Nature Journaling prompts or related nature activities to document inside a nature journal at least 4 times per month, including the monthly Phenology Wheel. But you'll find with many other activities, crafts, and other sections from this course, you could make many more entries in your nature journals together.

Nature Activities & Crafts (all ages)

All of the Nature Activities and Crafts use basic supplies or items found in nature. To prepare for the nature activities and crafts section, we suggest to do the following:

- Download the Invitations to Nature eBook and print any (or all) crafts that you would like to do throughout the year
- Purchase any nature walk materials needed (see Parents Guide to Nature Journaling 4-part video series)

There are enough craft activities to complete 4 per month in the Invitations to Nature eBook and all use supplies that you likely have on hand or can be found in nature.

Birding 101 (ages 8+)

The main videos in the Birding 101 section can be used at any time during the year. It is included in our guided syllabus in the fall and also repeated in the spring. Also as part of the birding section, free access to the Backyard Bird Calendar watercolor course is included.

- Watch the Birding Supplies & Binoculars video
- Download templates as needed from the Backyard Bird Bundle Course

The birding content provides a set of 5 videos that can be spread across a couple of months and used during any season of the year to get started. The Backyard Bird Bundle watercolor course has 12 projects with the suggestion of creating one painting per month.



Guided Content Plan

August (Month 1)

Watercolor Tutorials

- Introduction to Watercolor Basics (optional)
- Complete Apple painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Complete Squirrel painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Bonus Summer Paintings
 - Ocean Crab
 - Palm Leaf

Drawing Tutorials

- Watch Introduction to Drawing
- Watch Supplies & Lines video
- Watch Intro - Make a Values Chart
- Complete Drawing a Shell lesson

Nature Journaling & Activities

- Watch "Creating a Sit Spot" video
- Watch "Sound Maps & Spectrograms" video
- Complete Phenology Wheel monthly entry
- Choose 2-3 crafts from Invitations to Nature eBook to complete throughout the month

Birding 101

- Watch Birding Supplies & Binoculars video
- Watch Introduction to Bird Identification and Observations
- Complete August Backyard Bird watercolor project

September (Month 2)

Watercolor Tutorials

- Complete Butterflies painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Complete Snail painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Bonus Summer Paintings
 - Sunflower
 - Pumpkins

Drawing Tutorials

- Review Intro - Make a Values Chart video if needed
- Complete Drawing a Strawberry lesson
- Complete Drawing a Flower lesson
- Complete Drawing a Acorn lesson

Nature Journaling & Activities

- Watch "Adopt a Tree" video
- Complete Phenology Wheel monthly entry
- Choose 3-4 crafts from Invitations to Nature eBook to complete throughout the month

Birding 101

- Watch "Birding By Ear" video
- Watch "Sketching Birds in the Field" video
- Watch "Bird Migration" video
- Complete September Backyard Bird watercolor project



Guided Content Plan

October (Month 3)

Watercolor Tutorials

- Complete Fall Leaves painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Complete Mushrooms painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Bonus Autumn Paintings
 - Owl
 - Cat on a Pumpkin

Nature Journaling & Activities

- Watch "Building Homes in Nature" video
- Complete Phenology Wheel monthly entry
- Choose 3-4 crafts from Invitations to Nature eBook to complete throughout the month

Drawing Tutorials

- Review Intro - Make a Values Chart video (if needed)
- Complete Drawing a Peapod lesson
- Complete Drawing a Stick lesson

Birding 101

- Review any Birding 101 videos from previous months
- Sketch a bird that is local to your area
- Complete October Backyard Bird watercolor project

November (Month 4)

Watercolor Tutorials

- Complete Acorn painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Complete Turkey painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Bonus Autumn Painting - Cornucopia

Nature Journaling & Activities

- Watch "Insect Hotels" video
- Watch "Respecting Nature - Spiders, Insects, and Snakes" video
- Complete Phenology Wheel monthly entry
- Choose 2-3 crafts from Invitations to Nature eBook to complete throughout the month

Drawing Tutorials

- Review Intro - Make a Values Chart video (if needed)
- Complete Drawing a Carrot lesson
- Complete Drawing a Rock lesson

Birding 101

- Review any Birding 101 videos from previous months
- Go bird watching on a nature walk
- Complete November Backyard Bird watercolor project



Guided Content Plan

December (Month 5)

Watercolor Tutorials

- Complete Holly painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Complete Partridge painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Bonus Winter Paintings
 - Red and White Folk Bird card
 - Winterberries card

Drawing Tutorials

- Review Intro - Make a Values Chart video (if needed)
- Complete Drawing a Pinecone lesson
- Complete Drawing a Holly Leaf lesson
- Complete Drawing a Pine Bough lesson

Note: This is the last set of Drawing Tutorial lessons. Next month will begin Colored Pencil Tutorials.

Nature Journaling & Activities

- Watch "Respecting Nature - What Should I Do If an Animal Needs Help?" video
- Complete Phenology Wheel monthly entry
- Choose 3-4 crafts from Invitations to Nature eBook to complete throughout the month

Birding 101

- Review any Birding 101 videos from previous months
- Sketch a bird that is local to your area
- Complete December Backyard Bird watercolor project

January (Month 6)

Watercolor Tutorials

- Complete Mouse painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Complete Snowflakes painting lesson & use related educational packet (additional white gel pen recommended for this painting)
- Bonus Winter Paintings
 - Jolly Penguin
 - Winter Snowglobe

Colored Pencil Tutorials

- Watch "Intro to Colored Pencil Supplies" video
- Watch "Introduction to Tips and Techniques" video

Nature Journaling & Activities

- Watch "Making a Bird Feeder" video
- Complete Phenology Wheel monthly entry
- Choose 3-4 crafts from Invitations to Nature eBook to complete throughout the month

Birding 101

Note: Birding 101 videos repeated from Month 1

- Watch "Birding Supplies & Binoculars" video
- Watch "Introduction to Bird Identification and Observations" video
- Complete January Backyard Bird watercolor project



Guided Content Plan

February (Month 7)

Watercolor Tutorials

- Complete Moon Phases painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Complete Snowdrops painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Bonus Winter Paintings
 - Winter Night Sky
 - Happy Snowman

Colored Pencil Tutorials

- Review Intro - Tips and Techniques video (if needed)
- Complete Colored Pencil Box Turtle lesson

Nature Journaling & Activities

- Watch "Respecting Nature - Wildlife and Plants" video
- Complete Phenology Wheel monthly entry
- Choose 3-4 crafts from Invitations to Nature eBook to complete throughout the month

Birding 101

Note: Birding 101 videos repeated from Month 2

- Watch "Birding By Ear" video
- Watch "Sketching Birds in the Field" video
- Watch "Bird Migration" video
- Complete February Backyard Bird watercolor project

March (Month 8)

Watercolor Tutorials

- Complete Beetles painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Complete Spring Vegetables painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Bonus Spring Paintings
 - Baby Lamb
 - Small Flower Bunch

Colored Pencil Tutorials

- Review "Introduction to Tips and Techniques" video (if needed)
- Complete Colored Pencil Fox lesson

Nature Journaling & Activities

- Watch "Forcing Branches to Blossoms" video
- Watch "Adopt a Ground Plot" video
- Complete Phenology Wheel monthly entry
- Choose 2-3 crafts from Invitations to Nature eBook to complete throughout the month

Birding 101

Note: All birding 101 videos repeated from Month 3

- Watch "Birding By Ear" video
- Watch "Sketching Birds in the Field" video
- Watch "Bird Migration" video
- Complete March Backyard Bird watercolor project



Guided Content Plan

April (Month 9)

Watercolor Tutorials

- Complete Daffodils painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Complete Rabbit painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Bonus Spring Paintings
 - Robin's Nest
 - Bee Wreath

Colored Pencil Tutorials

- Review Intro - Tips and Techniques video (if needed)
- Complete Colored Pencil Robin lesson

Nature Journaling & Activities

- Watch "Respecting Nature - What Can I Do to Help the Environment in My Daily Life?" video
- Complete Phenology Wheel monthly entry
- Choose 3-4 crafts from Invitations to Nature eBook to complete throughout the month

Birding 101

- Review any Birding 101 videos from previous months
- Go bird watching on a nature walk
- Complete April Backyard Bird watercolor project

May (Month 10)

Watercolor Tutorials

- Complete Dandelion painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Complete Frog painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Bonus Spring Paintings
 - Flowers in Watering Can
 - Feathers

Colored Pencil Tutorials

- Review "Introduction to Tips and Techniques" video (if needed)
- Complete Colored Pencil Dragonfly lesson

Nature Journaling & Activities

- Watch "Animal Track Molds" video
- Complete Phenology Wheel monthly entry
- Choose 3-4 crafts from Invitations to Nature eBook to complete throughout the month

Birding 101

- Review any Birding 101 videos from previous months
- Sketch a bird that is local to your area
- Complete May Backyard Bird watercolor project



Guided Content Plan

June (Month 11)

Watercolor Tutorials

- Complete Shells painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Complete Blue Whale painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Bonus Summer Paintings
 - Flamingo
 - Coral

Colored Pencil Tutorials

- Review Intro - Tips and Techniques video (if needed)
- Complete Colored Pencil Sunflower lesson

Nature Journaling & Activities

- Watch "Setting Up a Moth Sheet" video
- Complete Phenology Wheel monthly entry
- Choose 3-4 crafts from Invitations to Nature eBook to complete throughout the month

Birding 101

- Review any Birding 101 videos from previous months
- Go bird watching on a nature walk
- Complete June Backyard Bird watercolor project

July (Month 12)

Watercolor Tutorials

- Complete Lemons painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Complete Octopus painting lesson & use related educational packet
- Bonus Summer Paintings
 - Starfish Family
 - Lobster

Colored Pencil Tutorials

- Review any introduction videos
- Create your own colored pencil drawing of something you find in nature

Nature Journaling & Activities

- Complete Phenology Wheel monthly entry
- Choose 4-5 crafts from Invitations to Nature eBook to complete throughout the month

Birding 101

- Review any Birding 101 videos from previous months
- Sketch a bird that is local to your area
- Complete July Backyard Bird watercolor project