

# SPRING HOME LEARNING

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Making a Natural History Diary

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Before there were iPhones, computers, TV's or radios, people had to find other ways to entertain themselves.



One particularly British obsession has been the study of Natural History.



During the last 150 years the plants and animals found in the British Isles have become far less common.



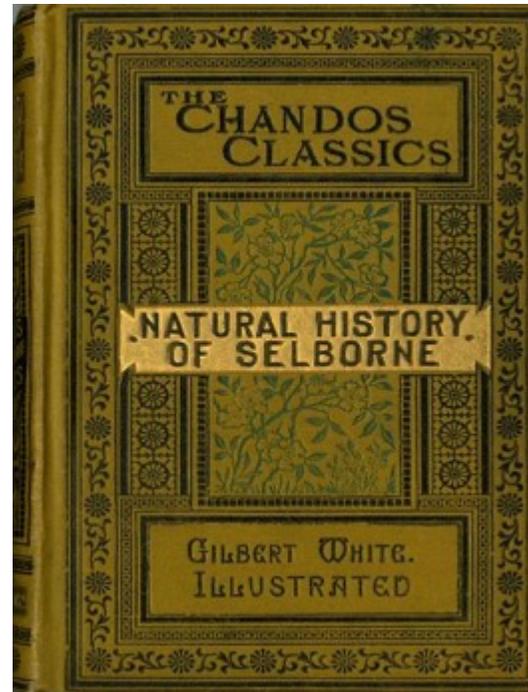
But before the 1850's the countryside was seething with life, making all living things ideal subjects for study.

In fact it was difficult to ignore how stunningly beautiful the world was then.

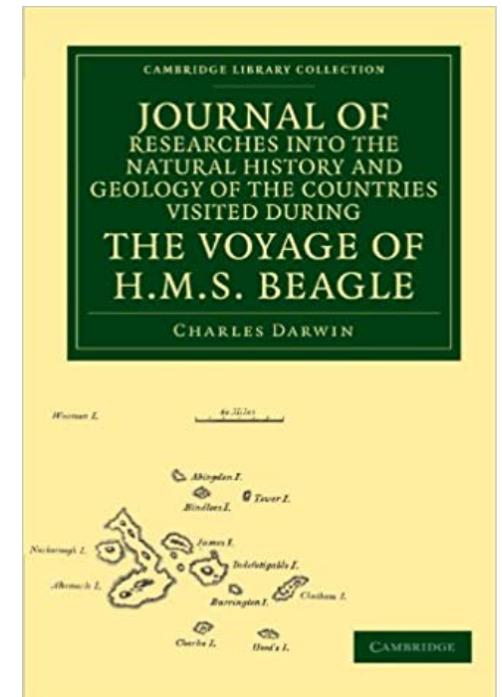
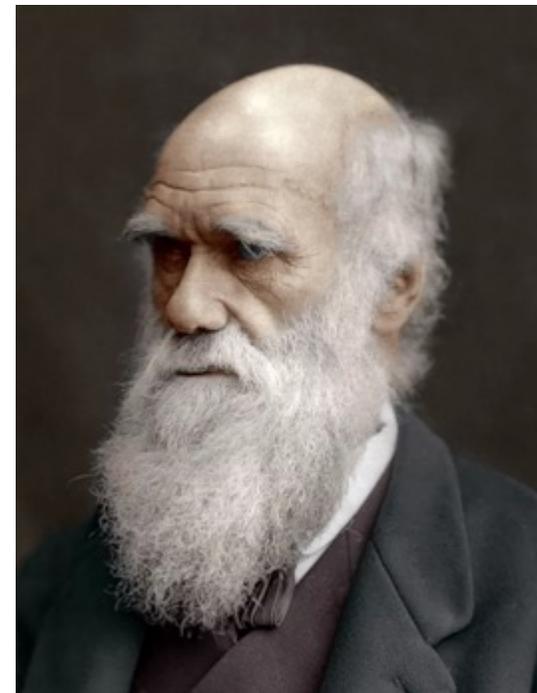


We know a lot about the countryside of the past because Natural History diarists recorded all that they saw. *Examples include:*

**Gilbert White**



**Charles Darwin**

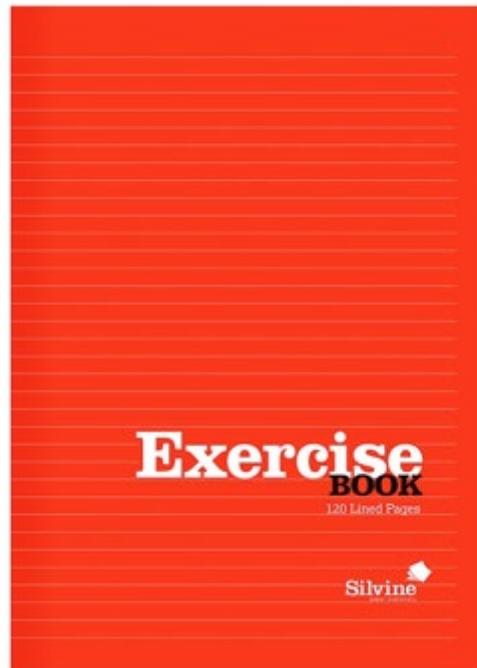


These naturalists spent many hours of meticulous work recording their observations.



There are some rules – not many. You must always include the date, the weather and comment on every living thing that you see, which interests you.

Now its your turn to make your own Natural History diary, so what do you need to do?



Get yourself an exercise book and start recording!

# Really good Natural History diaries include drawings, as well as written accounts.



You can include pressed flowers in your diary.



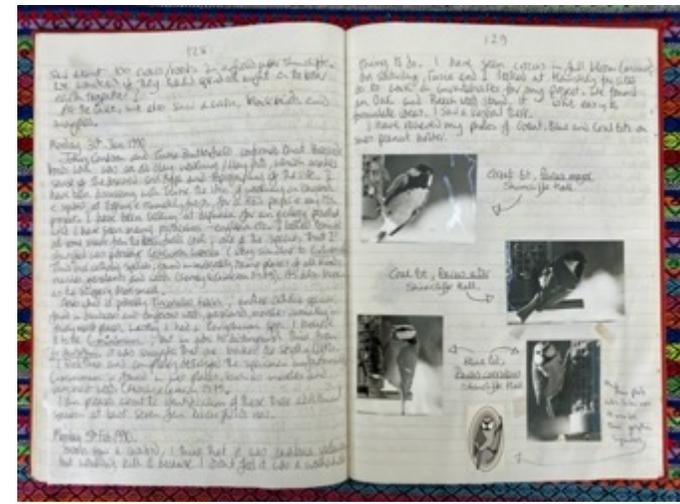
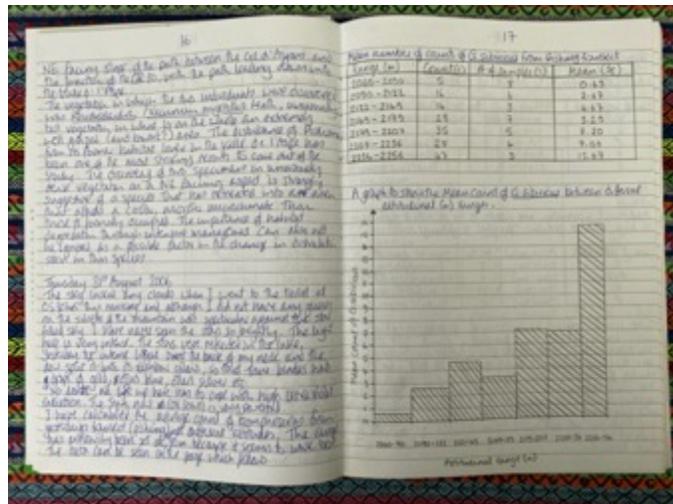
Or stick down some feathers with tape.



Making leaf and bark rubbings is one of the more artistic things you could do.



# Here are examples from my own diaries.



If you can't get an exercise book you can use your Smart phones to record your discoveries.



Any photographs you take can be posted on social media .

Or you can join one of the online communities full of respected and helpful experts.



The image shows the iNaturalist logo, which features a stylized green bird in flight above the text 'iNaturalist'. Below the logo is a screenshot of the iNaturalist mobile application interface, displaying various icons for user profiles, species identification, and a 'More images' button.

**iNaturalist**  
Website

[inaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org)

iNaturalist is a citizen science project and online social network of naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists built on the concept of mapping and sharing observations of biodiversity across the globe. iNaturalist may be accessed via its website or from its mobile applications. [Wikipedia](#)

**Users:** 1 million total registered users (as of December 2019)

**Date launched:** 2008

**Type of site:** Citizen science

**Created by:** Ken-ichi Ueda, California Academy of Sciences

**iSpot**  
Website



iSpot is a website developed and hosted by the Open University with funding from the Open Air Laboratories network with an online community intended to connect nature enthusiasts of all levels. Registered users upload images of wildlife observations, identify species, and discuss their findings with other members. [Wikipedia](#)

**Type of site:** Citizen science

**Owner:** Open University

**Available in:** English Language, Spanish Language

<https://www.inaturalist.org>

<https://www.ispotnature.org>

There is so much to photograph!



Getting outside and away from any digital screen is good for your mind, body and soul.



So make sure you enjoy the experience.

Between now and when you return to school,  
make a daily entry in your Natural History  
diaries.



Learn as much as you can, use the internet to help you  
identify things and enjoy the experience!

Share your Natural History work in school  
when you return.



While you're out make sure you stay safe and listen  
to the guidelines given by your parents/carers!

Good Luck!

