

SIMPLE STUDIES

# SAMPLE

SIMPLE STUDIES™

# FOREST

## CREATURES



A LIVING SCIENCE HANDBOOK FOR K-6 STUDENTS  
BY CRYSTAL WILEY

S I M P L E   S T U D I E S

SAMPLE

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# Materials Needed for Entire Study

\*Please note, the author chose to feature animals in this *Among the Forest People* book specifically native to her area. Many animals you and I may consider to be native to our North American evergreen forests not featured in her book can be found in my [Simple Studies: Learning North American Animals with Thornton Burgess](#) guide, and was the first *Simple Studies* handbook ever created.

- ❑ **Among the Forest People** by Clara Dillingham Pierson (*This book is available in the public domain. We use the printed version from New West Press but it is also available by other publishers and you can find a copy on most used online bookstores such as Thriftbooks.com, Abebooks.com and Amazon. The free audio version is available on Librivox.com as well*).
- ❑ **Among the Forest People Coloring Pages** (*for younger students*)
- ❑ **Personal Nature Journal** (*each student*)
- ❑ **Quality Coloring Pencils** (*Recommended: Prismacolor*)
- ❑ **Picture & General Booklists** (*attached*)(*optional*)
- ❑ **Mammal, Reptiles, Birds and/or a General “forest” Field Guides and/or A Visual Encyclopedia** showcasing multiple forest species. (We use the *Smithsonian Natural History* by DK Publishing. *\*The main goal is to find guides and books with realistic, vivid images of each animal, insect, reptile or bird and/or habitat when possible*).
- ❑ **Handbook of Nature Study** by Anna Botsford Comstock (*optional*) (*This guide is a timeless resource highly recommended for instructors interested in better equipping themselves in all manners of nature study*).
- ❑ **Bible** (*optional*)
- ❑ **Computer** (*optional*)

# Suggested Schedule

There are 20 lessons in total. If you do two lessons per week, you'll finish this study in 11 – 12 weeks. You may only get to one lesson each week. You may get to four lessons. It's entirely up to you. I have a recommended schedule below that offers a breakdown of two lessons each week with Catch-up and Review Questions the week after the book is complete.

The important thing to remember is that you control your curriculum – your curriculum should never control you or your students. So be at peace going at your own pace. There is no way to “fall behind” in *Simple Studies*. These are great lessons to include into your morning time basket, afternoon read-alouds or simply to read through to inspire curiosity in our natural world.

Week 1: Lessons 1 and 2

Week 2: Lessons 3 and 4

Week 3: Lessons 5 and 6

Week 4: Lesson 7 and 8

Week 5: Lessons 9 and 10

Week 6: Catch-up and Review

Week 7: Lessons 11 and 12

Week 8: Lesson 13 and 14

Week 9: Lessons 15 and 16

Week 10: Lessons 17 and 18

Week 11: Lessons 19 and 20

Week 12: Catch-up and Review

# Picture Booklist by Lesson

There are a plethora of wonderful picture books about forest creatures but the books listed in the book lists offer the opportunity for students to build **joyful relations with forest creatures** through story. And so, this is by no means an exhaustive list and I encourage every instructor to seek out additional living books as you see fit.

*\*Finally, while I researched books for hours trying to adhere to the living book recommendations, a few books do not fit into this category and were chosen for their childlike, whimsical prose and overall message. I try to offer more than one suggestion should you be unable to secure them all at your local library.*

**HELPFUL TIP:** *I recommend gathering at least the first 10 lessons before beginning (from the library if possible). I will remind you ahead of time to gather picture books for lessons 11-20.*

## Lesson 1:

- The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin* by Beatrix Potter
- Miss Suzy* by Miriam Young
- Squirrels* by Brian Wildsmith
- Dead Sea Squirrels (series)* by Mike Nawrocki
- Harry's Squirrel Trouble (I Can Read 1)* by Gene Zion
- Rabbits, Squirrels and Chipmunks: Take-Along Guide (Take Along Guides)*  
by Mel Boring

## Lesson 2:

- Owls* by Gail Gibbons
- Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell
- Sam and the Firefly* by P.E. Eastman

# Lesson 8

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *Among the Forest People*
- *Among the Forest People Coloring Pages*
- Bird Field Guide or Visual Encyclopedia with doves
- Mourning Dove Image & Copywork page (*attached*)
- Nature Journal
- Colored Pencils or Paints
- Bible (*optional*)
- Computer (*optional*)
- Picture Books see below (*optional*)

Ask the students what they recall from the last chapter.

**Read together,** *Among the Forest People*, chapter 8, “Mrs. Mourning Dove’s Housekeeping,” and ask for an oral or written narration. Let younger students paint or color the mourning doves in the *Among the Forest People Coloring Pages*.

**Older students:** Have students find a mourning dove in their field guide or visual encyclopedia and draw one in their nature journal.

**Optional:** [Listen](#) to the coo of a mourning dove. [Read](#) “13 Fascinating Facts” about Mourning Doves including what they eat and where they live. Have students continue memorizing Matthew 6:25-27.

**Dictation:** “They talked about the doves’ song, so sweet and sad, and about their soft coats of brown and gray, and they wondered very much what kind of home they would build.”

**Handbook of Nature Study:** Songs of Birds, Pages 42 – 43

**Picture Books for Lesson 8:** *Mrs. Noah's Doves* by Jane Yolen, *The Language of Doves* by Rosemary Wells, *Bird Watcher's Guide to Mourning Doves (Backyard Bird Watchers)* by Aife Arnim, *The Turtle Dove's Journey: A Story of Migration* by Madeleine Dunphy

**REMINDER:** Start gathering picture books for lessons 11 – 20.

# “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”

by Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.

His house is in the village though;

He will not see me stopping here

To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer

To stop without a farmhouse near

Between the woods and frozen lake

The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake

To ask if there is some mistake.

The only other sound's the sweep

Of easy wind and downy flake.

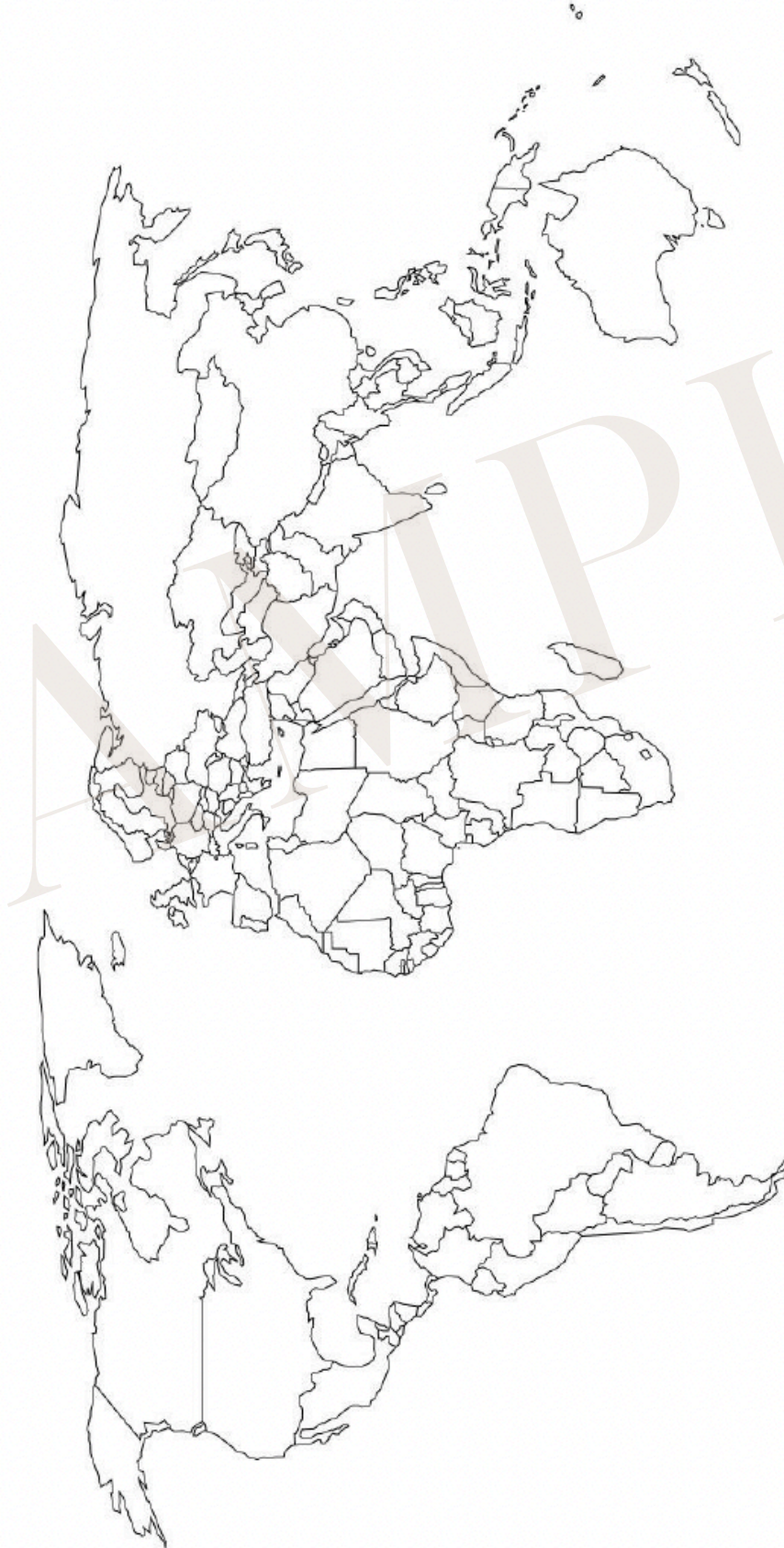
The woods are lovely, dark and deep,

But I have promises to keep,

And miles to go before I sleep,

And miles to go before I sleep.

# World Map (Lesson 10)



# Red Squirrel (Lesson 1)



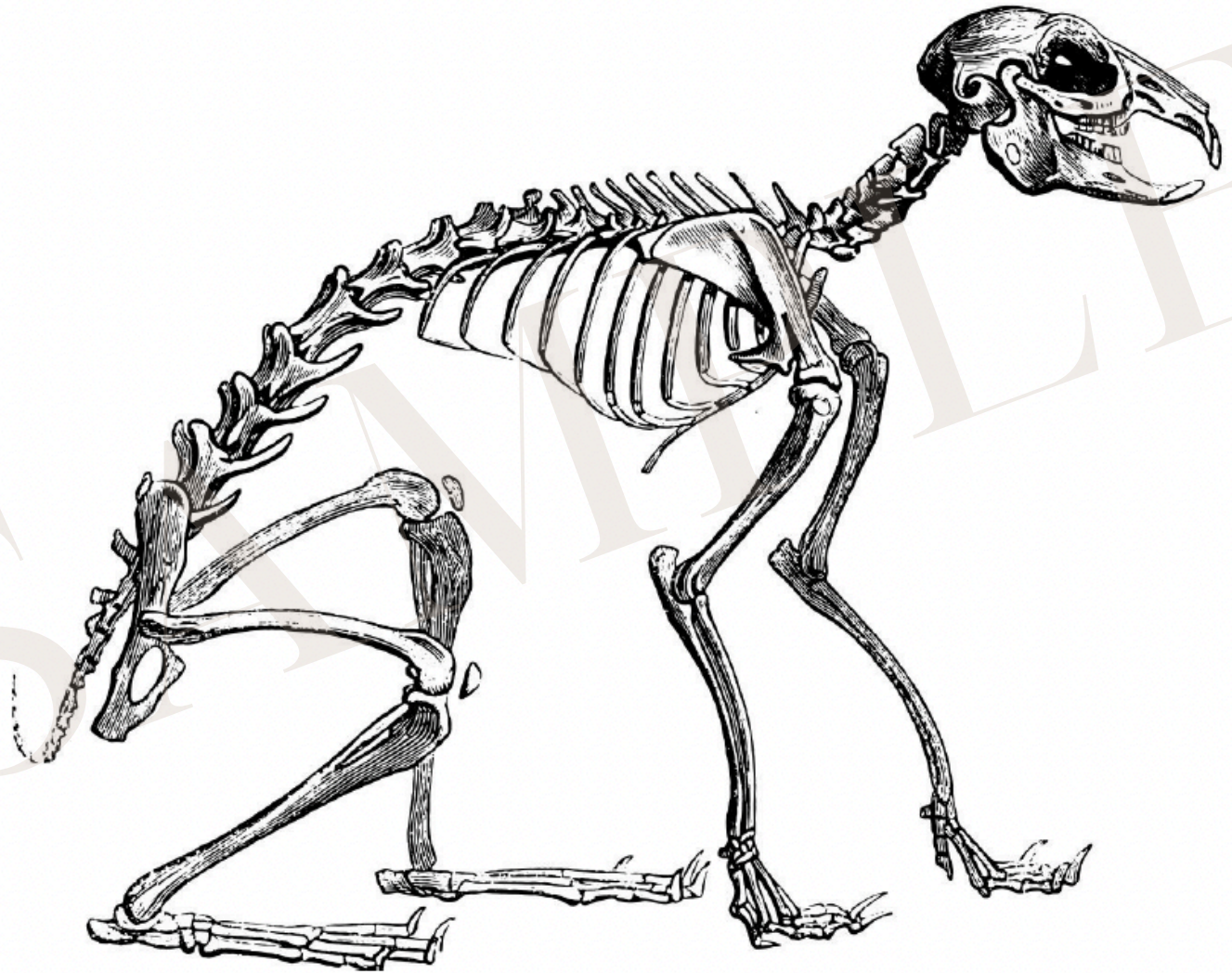
RED SQUIRREL

# Blue Jay (Lesson 9)



BLUE JAY

# Rabbit Skeleton (Lesson 11)



R A B B I T  
S K E L E T O N

# Turkey (Lesson 17)



TURKEY

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COLORING PAGES

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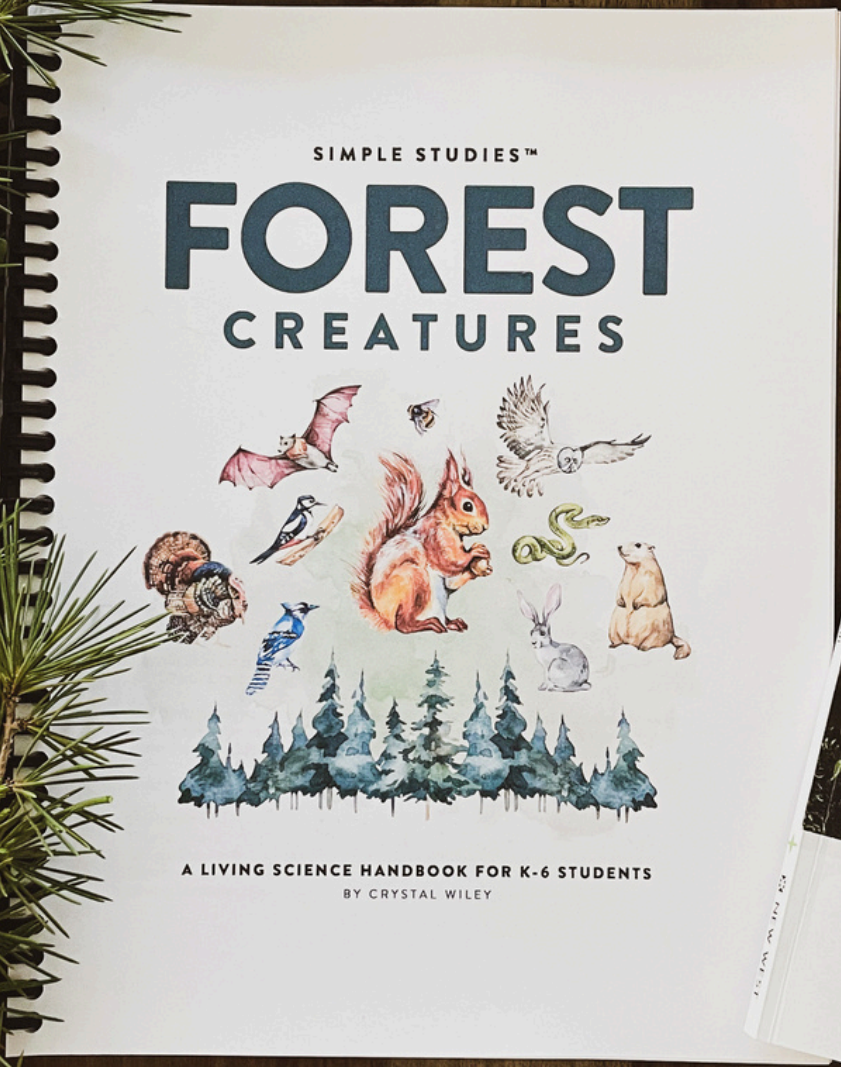
NAME



OWLS



**RATTLESNAKES**



# TESTIMONIALS

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*I have been searching for a few years for the right addition to our morning time. I needed something that has poetry, reading, Biblical principles and nature oriented lessons. I would find something but become overwhelmed by the amount of "fluff" and extra content. These studies are so feasible and attainable and have added a wonderful component to our Charlotte Mason homeschool! My only problem is choosing which one to do next!!!! Love them all!!! - Katie Woodruff*

OUR KIDS RECENTLY FINISHED YOUR JUNGLE STUDY AND REALLY ENJOYED IT. :) — GENEVIEVE D.

*We've used your guides from the beginning, gosh, so many years ago. I love how you take the cream off the top of so many different curriculum and put it together in a way that's custom fit for your family. - Miette Allison*

I LOVE YOUR STUDIES. I HAVE AN 8 AND 5 YEAR OLD AND WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING THROUGH THE FOREST ANIMALS GUIDE. IT'S SO FUN. - LYDIA JENKINS

*I like all of these guides because they're simple but interesting and give just enough further resources (links, booklists, ideas) to be fun without being overwhelming, an important factor for us! - @thesunrisemama*

TRULY LOVE YOUR PRODUCTS; THEY ARE A GREAT FIT FOR OUR FAMILY. I LOVE HOW THE LESSONS ARE SO FLEXIBLE. THEY CAN BE SHORT (JUST READING AND COLORING) OR WE CAN GO DOWN A RABBIT HOLE FOR THE AFTERNOON. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR CREATING THEM! — KÀRIN MANCINI

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*We did the Simple Studies Burgess Birds and it was our favorite homeschool study we've ever done! We have kids in 8th grade down to kindergarten and all my children enjoyed doing this study together. It's amazing to see each bird that they drew in their nature journal. I printed "how to draw" pages for my youngest sons so it gave them step by step instructions on how to draw each bird. They loved that. My young ones also loved the coloring pages! We were sad when the book came to an end. I would highly recommend this study and you can make it work with a variety of ages.*

– Claire Jones

US HISTORY IS FINALLY STARTING TO BE INTERESTING FOR MY 7 YEAR OLD. THANK YOU FOR CREATING AN INTERESTING, AFFORDABLE WAY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN TO LEARN ABOUT US HISTORY! – SARAH W.

*My daughters and I started with Among the Meadow People and I truly appreciate your simple studies. They are enjoying them and sharing facts with family. They loved how God created the robin with a pocket of oil for when it rains. Thank you for serving the homeschool community with your time and talent. – Nicole M*

JUST FINISHED COURAGE. WE LOVED IT! IT WAS OUR FIRST STUDY AND NOW I WANT TO BUY THEM ALL!! -MAGGIE MILLER

*I'm officially obsessed with your studies. They've been a life-giving presence in our homeschool this year & I'm so grateful to have found them. – Hannah Connor*

I AM SO PLEASED WITH WHAT I FOUND! I AM PLANNING ON INCORPORATING 3 OF THE SIMPLE STUDIES IN OUR YEAR. THEY ARE SO CUTE!! AND ARE GREAT FOR MY BROOD-- 8, 6, 3.5 AND 14 MONTHS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION. – MARIA DOUGLASS

# CHECK OUT OUR OTHER PRODUCTS!

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