

SIMPLE STUDIES

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SIMPLE STUDIES™

MEADOW CREATURES



A LIVING SCIENCE HANDBOOK FOR K-6 STUDENTS

BY CRYSTAL WILEY

Materials Needed for Entire Study

- ❑ **Among the Meadow People** by Clara Dillingham Pierson (*This title is available in the Public Domain so there are many free and inexpensive ways to acquire it for e-reading or audio versions such as on Librivox.com, in eBooks and on YouTube.com. For printed versions, which I recommend so the instructor can read aloud, I recommend this version from NWWST.com (this is the edition we own), Abebooks.com, [Thriftbooks](http://Thriftbooks.com) and Amazon.com).*
- ❑ **Among the Meadow People Coloring Pages** (attached — print off copies for each student – feel free to have them printed on thicker cardstock or watercolor paper if your younger students wish to paint the pictures).
- ❑ **Nature Journal or Loose Leaf Paper** (each lesson).
- ❑ **Quality Coloring Pencils, and/or Paints**
- ❑ **A Computer or Device** (optional for visual reference and video links).
- ❑ **Field Guides: Insects, Butterflies, Amphibians, Birds and/or General Natural History books** on hand (*If you do not own any field guides or Natural History books, consider borrowing several from the library. Field guides with pictures are preferred over ones with illustrations. Multiple links are offered for visual reference and research if you do not have these books*).
- ❑ **Picture Booklist** (attached & optional) (*I recommend borrowing as many picture books from the library as possible before starting the lessons*).
- ❑ **Handbook of Nature Study** by Anna Comstock (*optional additional readings*).
- ❑ **Materials for Optional Activities** (attached – gather everything you'll need before beginning all lessons, if you decide you'd like your students to enjoy them).
 - ❑ **Lesson 7: Homemade Spider Webs** (yarn)
 - ❑ **Lesson 11: Simple Wormery** (see attached)
 - ❑ **Lesson 17: Mud Pies** (foil pie pans, dirt & water)
 - ❑ **Lesson 25: Simple Mini Frog Pond** (see attached)

Meadow Creatures:

Picture Booklist by Lesson

There are a plethora of wonderful picture books about insects and other meadow species, but the books listed below offer the opportunity for students to continue building *joyful relations* with these creatures.

***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 featuring each creature. I tried to offer more than one suggestion should you be unable to secure them all at your local library.*

HELPFUL TIP: *I recommend gathering the picture books from the library for Lessons 1-14 first. (I will remind you to secure the second batch of picture books in Lesson 12).*

Lesson 1:

- A Butterfly is Patient* by Dianna Aston and Sylvia Long
- Monarch Butterfly of Aster Way* by Elizabeth Ring
- Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing Butterflies & Moths* by Jim Arnosky
- From Caterpillar to Butterfly* by Deborah Heiligman
- Are You a Butterfly?* by Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries
- Waiting for Wings* by Lois Ehlert
- Summer Birds: The Butterflies of Maria Merian* by Margarita Engle
- The Life Cycles of Butterflies* by Judy Burris

Lesson 2:

- Robin at Hickory Street* by Dana Meachen Rau
- This is the Nest that Robin Built* by Denise Fleming
- The Story of the Easter Robin* by Dandi Daley Mackall

Lesson 1

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *Among the Meadow People*
- *Among the Meadow People Coloring Pages (provided)*
- Colored Pencils and/or Paints
- Nature Journal
- Butterfly Field Guide
- Picture Books below (*optional*)
- *Handbook of Nature Study (optional)*
- Computer (*optional*)

First, introduce *Among the Meadow People* and the author to your students as well as any field guides and Natural History reference books you'll be using for these lessons. Demonstrate how to look up insects and animals by their names.

Read Chapter 1, "The Butterfly that Went Calling," and ask for an oral or written narration. (*Remember oral narration should only begin around the age of six*). While you read, let younger students (*suggested Kindergarten and under*) paint or color the picture of the Butterfly on page 1 of the *Among the Meadow People Coloring Pages*.

Older Students: Using a field guide, have students look up a [Butterfly](#) of their choice and draw one in their nature journal, making notes about what they find fascinating. Starting in first or second grade, students are encouraged to keep their own nature journal. When studying indoors, students are encouraged to draw in their nature journals during each lesson, using a field guide and/or natural history book as a visual reference and labeling, or they can draw from their imagination while listening to the story. Instructors may then assist by labeling each drawing or writing down what the student tells about his or her picture.

Optional: Encourage students to research the insect(s) of [their state](#). Some states, like Oklahoma, have both a state butterfly and a state insect.

Handbook of Nature Study:

Black Swallowtail Butterfly and the Monarch Butterfly: Pages 301 – 310

Picture Books for Lesson 1: *List too long, please see Picture Booklist by Lesson.*

Life Cycle of a Butterfly



Ant

Beetle

Butterfly

Bug

Caterpillar

Cicada

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MEADOW CREATURES



COLORING PAGES

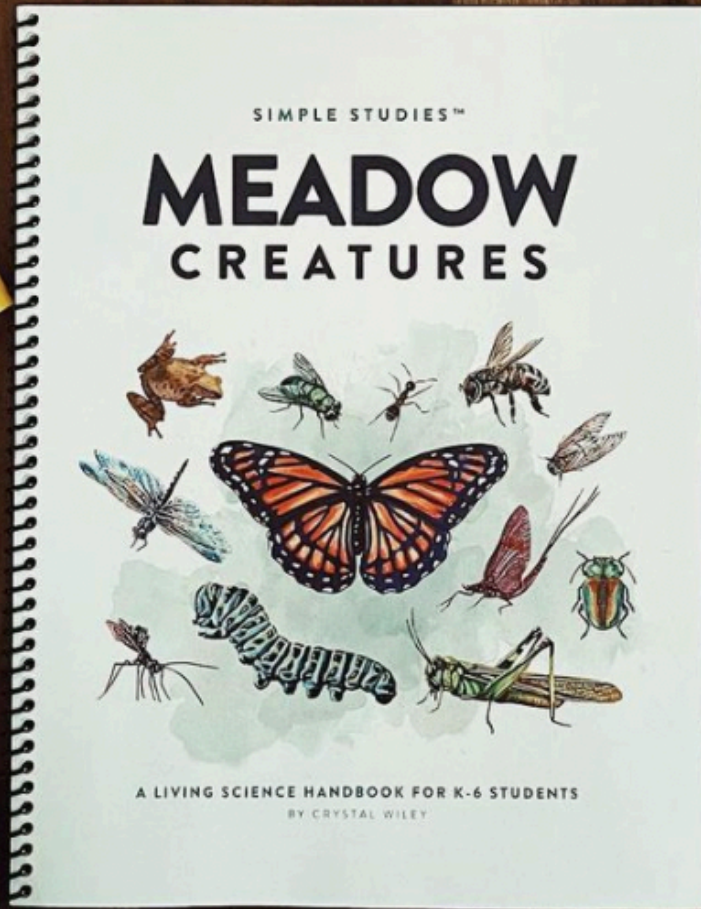
NAME



CICADA



INCHWORM



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

TESTIMONIALS

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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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