

Parent Guide: *A Hunt for Treasure- Sometimes the greatest treasures are found in the most unexpected of places*

Designed for children ages 10 and under

This is an **Anytime Activity**, an activity framed with Jewish ideas and text, that you can pull up anytime and experience with your child(ren) in 30 minutes or less, created by the Center for Jewish Engagement and Learning. This **Anytime Activity** is all about the concepts of **Experiencing the Beauty in Nature**. This parent guide provides a framework and tools to help you get the most out of this activity with your child.

What will you need?

All of the text-based materials you need are included in the **Anytime Activity** via hyperlinks on the website. There is a supplemental activity (an outdoor scavenger hunt) at the end of the lesson that you can print out, color and do you're your child.

How to use the Anytime Activity:

Supplemental learning for parents: One way to activate and encourage your child's love for nature, is to gain an appreciation for it yourself. Click [HERE](#) for a supplemental resource made for YOU with some additional quotes, stories and ideas that will support you as you go through the activity with your child. It is definitely not necessary to enjoy the activity but available a resource to provide some added enlightenment and inspiration.

Find a good time (about 15-20 minutes) to engage with your child! Find a comfortable spot to sit together and open the Anytime Activity

Opening (Forrest's concern): Begin the activity by scrolling through the first few pages to set the tone for the activity. Try to explore your child's thoughts and feelings towards the environment. How do they feel we need to cherish and protect it? Nurture their sense of responsibility.

Our role as guardians and protectors of nature: Discuss Judaism's view (as described in the book of Genesis) of our role as guardians and protectors of nature. What does that entail? How do we accomplish that? These are judgment-free questions; encourage your child to form their own opinion and explore ways they can take apply the mitzvah of protecting our environment.

The Rocky Mountains: When showing the video about the Rocky Mountains, ask your child about their own favorite experiences and places in nature. This can be an opportunity to get to know them better: do they prefer mountains and hiking or water and swimming? What do they consider beautiful: a bug, a sunset or a flock of birds? Keep in mind that the discussion is much more important than the answer your child gives.

Our personal treasure hunt: Forrest used an actual treasure to inspire people to discover a more subtle treasure within nature. Explore with your child: what does nature give back to them? How can we be grateful to nature?

The Wisdom of King Solomon: Read the quote from King Solomon. Discuss what it means to learn from the ant, or from any animal for that matter. How does seeing animals as teachers change our relationship to them?

The Secret Life of Ants: Explore how sometimes, it is easy to overlook the wisdom and genius in how animals live. Ask about what your child learns from the ant? Explore something your child has observed and noticed about an animal of their choice.

Activity- Scavenger Hunt: Ask your child if they'd like to take part in the nature scavenger hunt. The activity is also a coloring page which they can draw on. Notice how some of the items are experiential rather than objects to be found. Let your child lead the way, exploring at their own pace. Even if they don't finish or can't find an item, the process and experience is more valuable than checking off a box.

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From your fans at CJEL,

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