

Sense Signs of Spring Scavenger Hunt

Sight, Eyes

Bird Sightings
First Robin
First Turkey Vulture
First Hummingbird
First Red Winged Black Bird
Warblers, Sparrows, Finches and Woodpeckers
Birds that you don't recognize that you can investigate
Birds making nests

Animal Sightings
First Worms (worm castings)
First Insects
First Chipmunk
First Woodchuck
First Turtle
First Snake
Spring Peepers
Wood Frogs
Frog eggs
Salamander eggs
Insect eggs and egg sacs
Other animals

Grass turning green
Buds swelling on trees and bushes
Green shoots coming up
First flowers: snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils, tulips
First leaves and flowers of trees

What else do you see and notice at the beginning of Spring?
What can you see in the sky? In the trees and plants? On the ground? Under rocks and logs?
In the water?

Touch, Hands, Body

Thawing, soft earth
Mud
Melting snow
Water (pouring, stirring, splashing)
Warm breeze on your face
Sun on your face
Seeds
Buds
Warmer Days (longer days, sun higher in the sky, warmer breeze)

What else can you touch and explore through the sense of touch?

Ears, Hearing Sounds:

Water Sounds

Rising rivers from snow melt and rain (The Mill River (our local river) is a tidal river so it will be higher or lower at different times of the day according to the tide)

Different rain sounds (a light, warm spring rain)

Running, dripping, trickling water

Spring Peepers (frogs)

Wood Frogs

Bull frogs

Green Frogs

Websites with frog sounds

<https://musicofnature.com/calls-of-frogs-and-toads-of-the-northeast/>

<https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/Frogquiz/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.LookupAction>

Bird Songs

Notice individual bird songs and calls and try to locate the bird that is making them

Enjoy the the gradual rise and strength of the sheer number of bird songs in the morning and throughout the day

Website with bird songs

<https://www.macaulaylibrary.org/>

Nose, Smell:

Sweet, sometimes pungent, soft smells of earth, leaves, wood, water, poop, flowers, air, animals etc.

Take your dog for a walk (or take a walk with someone else's dog (notice where the dog sniffs and watch his nose follow the breeze)

Take time to smell your food at snack time or lunch and remember where it comes from

Taste, Mouth, Tongue

There are several wild edibles that are easy to find and enjoy once you are sure you can make a correct identification

Dandelion leaves, wild chives and fiddleheads are both abundant and easy to identify.

Expand your knowledge by foraging with an expert, reading field guides and joining up with a group or club like the three foragers (<https://www.facebook.com/The-3-Foragers-118852208201771/>)

or the Connecticut valley mycological society – mushrooms (<http://www.cvmsfungi.org/>)

Also visit your local farmer's market, fruit and vegetable market or organic food store and share fresh greens with your kids.

Fresh water, Sun teas made out of different herbs, lemonade, and maple syrup snow cones and syrup water are all good ways to enjoy the tastes of spring

<https://basmati.com/2017/03/28/spring-forage-five-forest-finds>

<https://backroadramblers.com/spring-wild-edibles-for-camping/>

<https://newengland.com/yankee-magazine/living/new-england-environment/new-england-wild-edibles/>

