




USI Trails

SUMMER TIME INSECT SEARCH

Insects abound on the trails at USI.
They have very important jobs in
keeping the woods healthy.


Can you find a decomposer?

What is a decomposer? It eats and eats and eats. It decomposes leaves, fallen branches and wastes left in the woods. Turn over a log and you'll find some decomposers. Here's a hint: worms and ants. Draw a picture of your decomposer right here:



Can you find a pollinator?

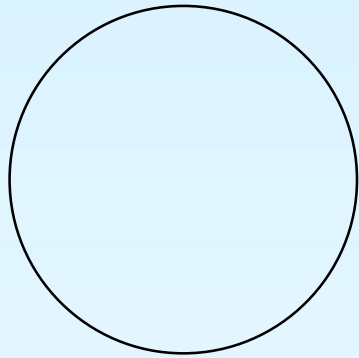
Most of the time pollinators fly. Sometimes they crawl on the ground. They move from flower to flower so plants can produce fruits and seeds. Here's a hint: butterflies and ants are pollinators. Go out to the Pollinating Field off the Burdette Trail and see how many you find. Draw a picture of your favorite pollinators here:



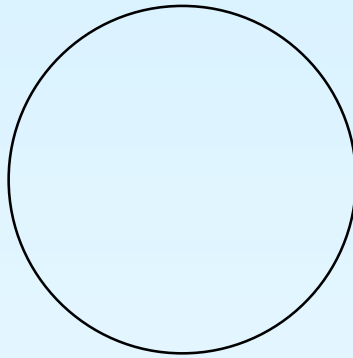
SUMMER TIME LEAF SEARCH

Searching for leaves is fun if you use the app **Seek**, by iNaturalist. Best of all it's free! When you find the leaf, draw it below. These trees are found on our trails.

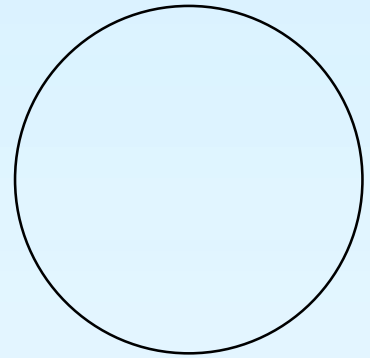
This worksheet was inspired by USI Teacher education candidates



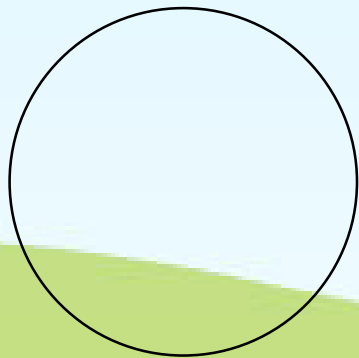
Tulip-our state tree



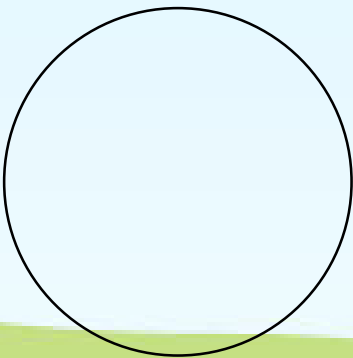
Pawpaw



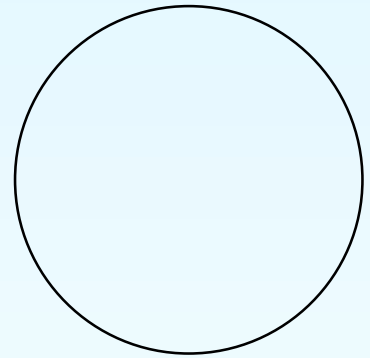
Basswood



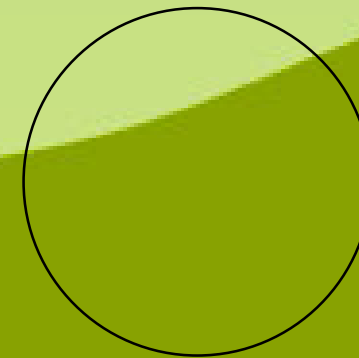
Oak



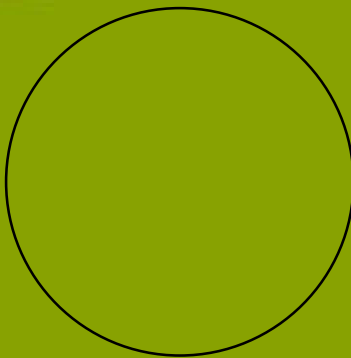
American Sweet Gum



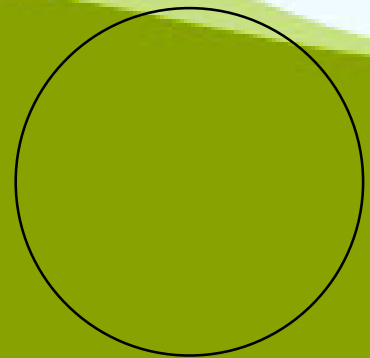
Eastern Redbud



Walnut



Sassafras



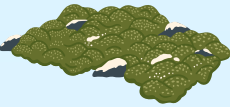
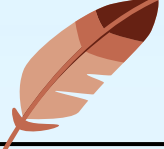


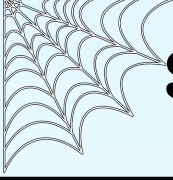






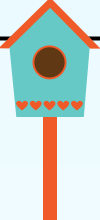


Elm

SUMMER TIME SCAVEGER HUNT

Cross off when you find each of these things found on around USI's many trails on campus.

This worksheet was inspired by USI Teacher Education candidates.

Acorn 	 Little fish	 Moss
Feather 	 Mushroom	Fern Leaf 
 Spiderweb	Pinecone 	 Algae
Tree Rings	Bee 	 Bird
Cool Rock 	 Dandelion	Bird house 

USI's trails, including the two lakes and the Outdoor Education Center have an abundance of natural life to admire. Always be aware that when you are in the woods, there are all sorts of slippery surfaces, insects and plants to be cautious of. Make sure you look and don't touch. Better yet, take a photo so you can draw it in your nature journal! We recommend the free nature app Seek by iNaturalist if you are wanting to learn about the nature found on the USI Trails.

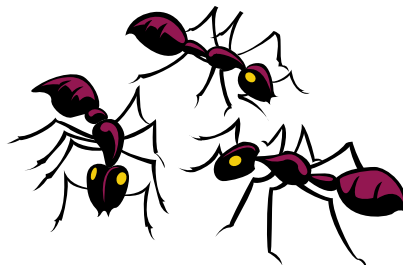
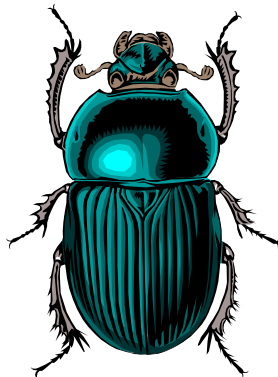
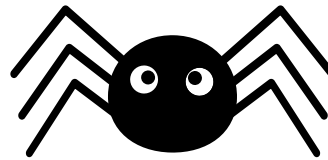
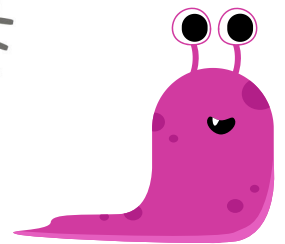
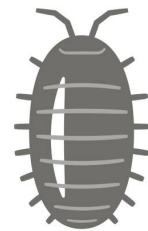
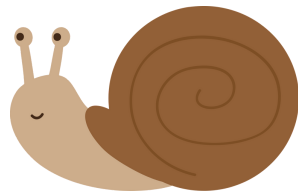


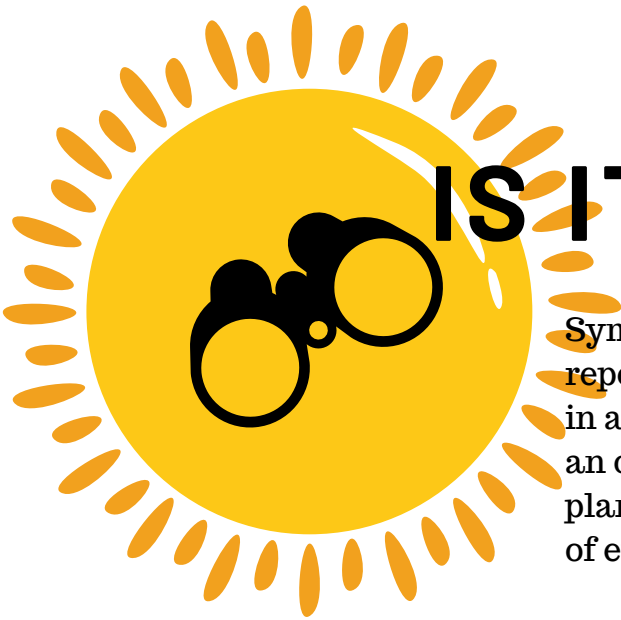
WHAT'S UNDER THE LOG



There's a lot of cool things going on in the woods, especially under logs. Just roll one over and check out the ecosystem going on underneath!

What do YOU see?

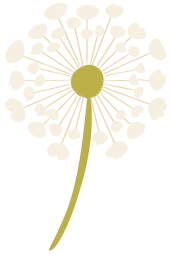




IS IT SYMETRICAL?

Symmetry in plants occurs when there is an orderly repetition of parts around a central point. For example, in a dandelion, the fluffy white seeds are arranged in an orderly repetition around the central head of the plant. This is called radial symmetry. There are LOTS of examples of **radial symmetry** in nature.

Find some examples of radial and reflective symmetry on the USI Trails



Item	Radial Symmetry	Reflective Symmetry

Reflection symmetry occurs when you can draw a line right down something and the left side is the same as the right side-it's reflective. For example, if you cut an ant down the middle, the left side is reflective of the right side. Same thing with a leaf!



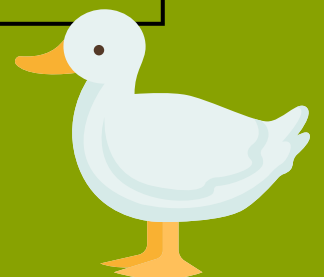
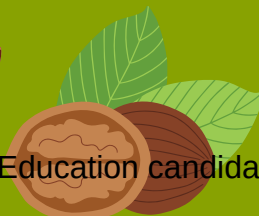


USI Trails

DOES IT SINK OR FLOAT?

Collect items on your walk through the USI Trails and make predictions: will it sink or float? Record your prediction then visit Reflection or Fountain Lake and test out your prediction. Were you right?

Item	Prediction	Conclusion





US Trails

NATURE'S SHAPES

There's all sorts of cool shapes out in nature. Make sure you look up and down on the trails to get an idea of how many shapes there are and where they lay or hang. See how many of each shape you can find on the trails. Graph each each shape you find below.

Square	Circle	Oval	Triangle	Rectangle