



# TRUCKEE MEADOWS PARKS FOUNDATION

*AWARENESS • APPRECIATION • STEWARDSHIP*

*The Student Stewards Program presents*  
**Distance Learning Week 2 – Nature Journal**

This scientific journal belongs to:

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**Steward** – someone who takes care of or protects something

How can I be a steward when spending time outside?

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Draw a picture of yourself being a steward.

# Observe a Bird

Watch the Student Stewards Science Video about Backyard Birding on YouTube. Then make observations of a bird that you see!

**Draw:**

**Record:**

Use your identification skills!

G.I.S.S	Color Pattern
Behavior	Habitat

I think this bird is a: \_\_\_\_\_

# What kind of soil?

Find out what makes up the soil in your backyard with the following experiment:

1. Take a jar or a tall container with a lid, and fill it up with soil (dirt without big rocks, plants, or sticks) a little more than halfway. Try to get soil from different areas in your yard.
2. Fill the entire jar with water, put on the lid, and shake until you have a mud smoothie! Congrats, you made loam!
3. Let it sit without touching it overnight! The loam will settle and separate into its different components.
4. Use the images below to help you draw and measure how much of each soil type you have.



	Total Amount of Soil	Total Amount of Sand	Total Amount of Silt	Total Amount of Clay
Height in Jar				
Percentage				

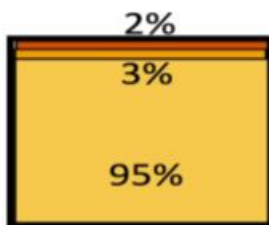
# What kind of soil?, cont.

Once you have measured how much of each soil you have, you can use the chart below to identify the name of your soil!

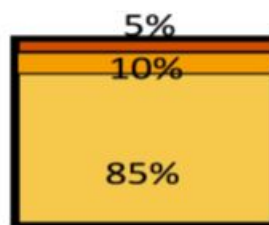


## What Kind of Soil Do I Have?

Use the chart to ID the soil in the jar in your group.



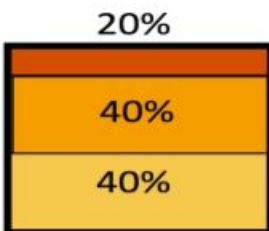
Sand



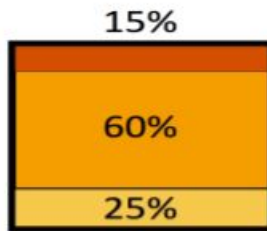
Loamy Sand



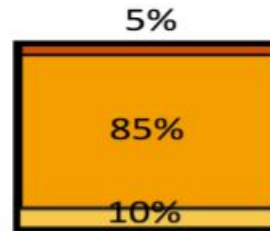
Sandy Loam



Loam



Silty loam



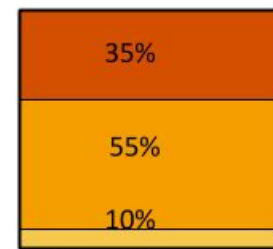
Silt



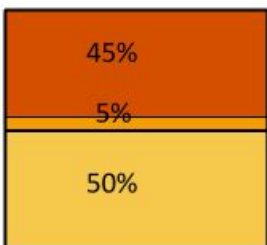
Sandy Clay loam



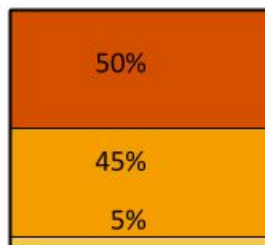
Clay Loam



Silty Clay loam



Sandy Clay



Silty Clay



Clay

# Can you find a small animal?

Draw it in the jar below



# Citizen Science Scavenger Hunt:

Try to find everything on this list!


A flying animal smaller than your hand

Something living on a rock

Plant or tree growing taller than you

A yellow flower

A singing bird

An animal track

A cold-blooded animal

A multi-colored rock

Something that shouldn't be here

A tree without flowers

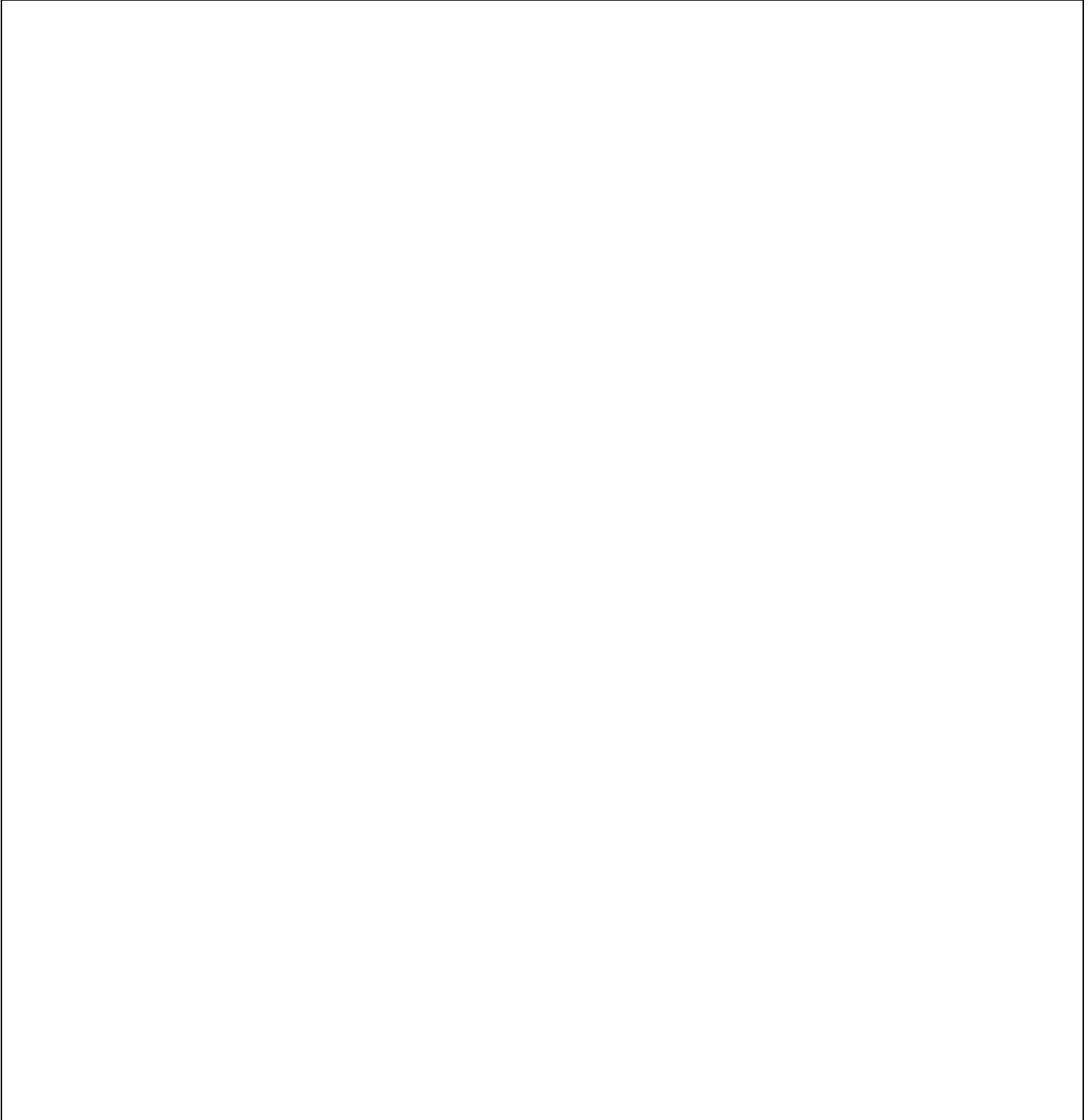
A non-living thing that belongs here

Something blue

A home for an animal

# Draw a Healthy Habitat

(Remember to include the four basic survival needs for all living things: food, water, shelter, and space to live).



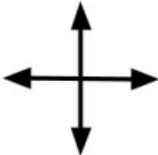
# Draw a map of the area where you are

(Think about why we use maps and what maps should include)

Legend Key

Symbol	Feature

Map Compass





# Observations

What has the weather been like?

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Find/describe an erosion feature:

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Find/describe a source of water pollution:

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# Observe a Tree

Watch the Student Stewards Science Video about Tree Identification on YouTube. Draw and label a tree that you observe! Make observations about its bark, leaves, height, colors, and more.

**Tree Observations:**



# Conclusion

Answer the following questions:

1. How do we use living things or natural resources?

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2. How might the living things you saw encourage people to want to settle in Nevada?

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3. What do you think would happen if one of the living things you observed became extinct? Tell someone how you think this would affect the other living things you found.

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*For more info and to watch the Student Stewards Science Videos, check out <https://www.tmparksfoundation.org/student-stewards-science-videos>*