

Nature Explorations

(Continued from page 35)

Answer all questions marked with a number.

Go to the maple tree at the north corner of the front porch. (At the maple tree a new note was found with a question to be answered, and new directions to follow.)

This is the home of *Bombus*, the bumble bee. You may see some of the workers carrying pollen into the nest. They will use it to feed the young bees inside which are little grub-like creatures living in cells made of wax and pollen.

1. Do you see any of the bumble bees going in with pollen? Hit the tree with a stone and listen for a noise.

Follow along the path to Tanglewood and find the pantry of a caterpillar on a poplar tree.

Every tree has hundreds of insects that feed on all parts of the tree. Notice how this tree has been eaten.

2. What part of the leaf does this insect eat, the edge, or the flat surface?

Now go to the Tanglewood wash house and find the homes of two spinners.

The big circular web is the home of the arachnida, the spider who is not an insect, for she has too many legs.

3. How many legs has a spider?

The other spinner is one that made a woolly cocoon just to sleep in. When it wakes up it will be a moth.

Now head for the home of the web presided over by human hands (weaving house). Look in the southeast corner for the hospitable tree that has sheltered and fed many creatures.

Surely the willow's hospitality has been sadly repaid. This is shown by the tattered condition of the leaves. The queer growths on the leaves are called galls. In the center is a little cell in which a small grub spends his "eating days."

4. On which side of the leaf do you find the growths? Just on the right of the path entering the "web" (weaving house) you will find a plant crowded with a family of hungry aphids.

5. What other insects can you see on the same plant? Go to the east of the "web" and find the home of the original papermaker.

This is the home of *Polistes*, a wasp whose home is not enclosed by an envelope of paper.

6. How many cells are closed? Circle about the athletic field and listen to the insect orchestra which is serenading you. Look near first base for further orders.

7. Can you find a serener? If so, what is it? Now to the stage where human creatures are often serenaded as they dine. Here you will find the home of another paper maker.

8. This is *Vespa's* home. How does it differ from that of *Polistes*? Look behind the piano for the end of the trail. The trail ends.

9. How did you like it, and why?

Adventures

I. Row down creek and note everything of interest.

II. Stay on beach all night and watch for deer.

III. Camp on beach all night and make observations of muskrat hole.

IV. Go 20 flowers up the road. Proceed until 5 insects are found. Follow along the road until you meet 3 different stones. Advance 3 prints. Next advance 6 different trees. Walk 1 bird farther. Note one other interesting observation. Turn back after noting how far you have gone.

Additional Quets

1. Many plants have a foamy white liquid on the stem. Find what is inside (Spittle Insect).

2. Find a flower under an arrow wood shrub on the north side of the road. What is the name of the flower? What does this plant lack that most other plants have? (The plant was broomrape and was labelled.)

3. Describe or sketch at least three kinds of prints found on the beach.

4. Watch an ant for a few minutes. Report your observation briefly.

5. For a rainy day—Name as many

minerals found about the house as you can find.

6. Where do flowers of pickerel weed start to bloom first?

7. Walk along the beach 150 paces and find the home of a fur-bearing mammal.

8. Find the home of the first spinner, the first cement maker, the first paper maker.

9. Find a tree or vine that has a leaf like your hand (five leaflets).

10. Find two ways in which the mountain ash differs from sumach.

11. What animal lives under a stone two paces from the well? (Toad.)

12. Find a tree stump and determine how old the tree was when cut.

DOROTHEA CLARK,
Girl Scouts.

Science News-Letter, July 16, 1927

Nature Coordination

Realizing the need for a national program that would coordinate the nature activities of national groups working with young people, the American Museum of Natural History invited these volunteer organizations to form a council to be known as the Coordinating Council on Nature Activities for the purpose of teaching the growing generation, through nature activities, the value of all wild life and natural resources and their conservation.

The various organizations represented are as follows:

American Museum of Natural History, American Natural Study Society, Boy Scouts of America, Camp Directors Association, Camp Fire Girls, Inc., Girl Scouts, Inc., Pioneer Youth of America, Playground and Recreation Association, Woodcraft League of America.

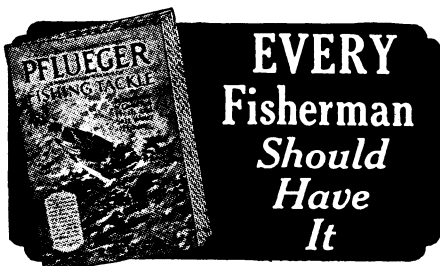
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About 90 per cent. of the late model aircraft engines in the United States are equipped with a magneto ignition system.

The brook trout or speckled trout can change its color and markings rapidly when passing from one environment to another.

It has been predicted that sun spots, which have been gradually increasing in number since 1923, will reach a maximum about 1928.

Three airplanes flying in a line five miles apart and 100 miles an hour are able to map 2,000 square miles of territory in one hour.



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