

Nature Forecasting Experiment

Optional printable book as an opener to the project: (you can find the printable book below)

What better way to connect with nature than to learn from it. In the process of learning the kids will take notice of things they haven't before and understand the magical and special knowledge that it possesses.

Let your child know that there are many accounts of the ancient Druids reading and understanding nature; it is one way that the gods communicated with them. They could tell what would happen in the future, what the weather would be like, and if nature, humans, and the spiritual world were in balance. Tell them that they will do a modern day experiment to learn about the connection the ancient Druids had with nature as well as the feelings that comes with it.

First they will need to choose at least 3 no more than 6 weather folk tales from the list below:

Flowers close up before a storm

When dogs eat grass expect rain and maybe severe weather

Wolves always howl more before a storm

When a rooster crows before bed it will be raining in the morning

Ants are busy, gnats bite, crickets sing louder than usual, spiders come down from their webs, and flies gather in houses just before rain and severe storms

If the sky is red in the evening and gray in the morning it will be a fine day

If the sky is gray in the evening and red in the morning it will rain

When small clouds join together expect rain

When leaves of a tree turn over, it will be windy

Birds on a telephone wire indicate the coming of rain

When spiders weave their webs by Noon, fine weather is coming soon

The sky turns green in a storm when there is hail on the way

When the trout jump high the night will bring rain

An eerie light coming from a marsh means it will rain real soon

Humans have the ability to smell rain coming

Locusts sing when the air is hot and dry

A Tulip opens when the temperature rises and closes when it falls

Flowers smell best right before a rain

Cats scratch a post before it gets windy

Cats wash their face before it rains

If a lot of spiders are spinning their web there will soon be a dry spell

When the sun is reddish it will rain

When there is a cloud on the brow of the setting sun it will rain

If there is dew on the grass the next day will be fair weather

If mist is rising from the pond fair weather will be tomorrow

If a frog makes noise at the time of a cold rain then warm dry weather will follow

The Kid/Nature Experiment:

They will keep a nature journal. The first thing they will write in their journal is a list of the folk tales they chose from the list. This journal is to be written in each and every time they go into nature. Each entry will consist of the day and time they went as well as every thing they noticed (flying birds, direction of wind, activity of animals, etc...). Let them write as much as possible, however, make sure they watch the things that are written about in the chosen folk tales.

Before writing in their journal they are to walk around, preferably different times of the day, in nature. Nature doesn't have to mean you take them a trip to the woods. It might be best for them

to observe in their own area – remember this is where their personal local nature gods roam. They will need to take the walks and write in the journal at least once daily (more recommended) for two or three weeks.

At the end of this period have them tell you if the folk tale is true or not and have them use information in their journal to back up what they tell you. You may want the older kids to do this in writing.

To add on to this lesson you can have them continue taking trips outside and documenting everything they see including the weather daily. They can use their findings to come up with their own weather tales. You can also give this project to them in different seasons so they can become aware of the differences in the seasons (by observation not date). It would be great if they could totally connect with the land around them – when it comes time to find the land gods, they will already be familiar and in touch with them.

Folktales Listing was obtained from –
http://members.aol.com/Accustiver/wxworld_folk.html

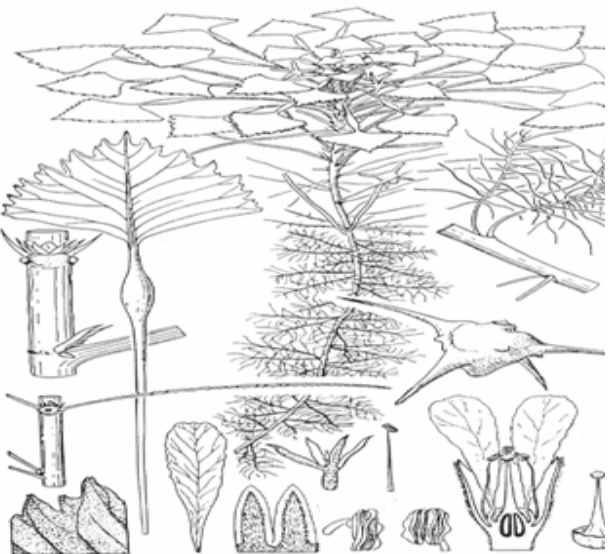
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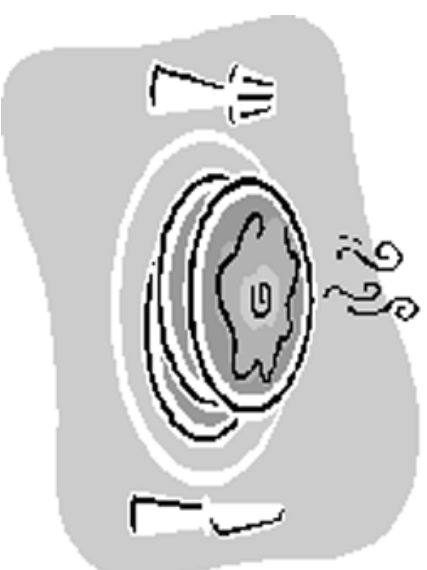
My Neighbor

He also told me that something good is going to happen to me. I did not believe him at all. He told me that I didn't have to, but I should always believe. He told me about how the clouds could tell him the future. I still didn't believe him and I had no intentions to, ever.

We then went for a walk around the neighborhood and park. He told me to collect different leaves and flowers so as he pointed them out I put them in a bag he gave me. When the bag was full he carried it for the rest of the walk.



It was breakfast time before my parents day outing. I ate real slowly because I didn't want them to go. It wasn't that I was a baby and couldn't be without them, it was just that I had to stay with a neighbor that I didn't know and really didn't want to know.



When we got back to his yard he complained that his legs were hurting him. He told me that old men need to sit every once in a while to rest. I joined him and sat under a nearby willow tree, because it gave wonderful shade from the scalding sun. We sat for a while as in a silent trance. I was amazed at how beautiful nature could be. He then reached his hand over to a leaf and started gently rubbing it. I was just watching because so far this man had never failed to amaze me. When he finished he told me that the animals in the area were thirsty.

He told me to fill a container with water from his well and sit it under an oak tree. He had me use a well to fill it and I couldn't believe that he still had one because they were outdated years ago. After I completed my task I



7

It Even though I took my time putting on my clothes, brushing my teeth and combing my hair it wasn't long before I was standing on his sidewalk. This man lived alone and spent hours walking everywhere. The kids in the neighborhood said he was strange. I wasn't sure how I felt about him. I was sure that I didn't want to spend a whole day with this weird man even though my father said it would be very good for me to spend time with a very dedicated Druid.



2

came back and sat with him under the willow tree. We just sat there staring at the container and soon enough, animals were coming towards it from all directions. The animals were so beautiful and I watched as if mesmerized. Soon all of the animals had abandoned their places by the container just as fast as they had come.

The man then stood up and I followed him into the house and through some bead curtains to a small kitchen. He handed me a book to read and I sat on a cushion in silence for what seemed like hours.



The quiet was broken by him sitting a bowl of something green and watery with leaves floating in it on the table in front of me. I didn't want to be rude so I took a bite and it tasted great. I looked up and told him

My father did the introductions telling him my name and telling me the man's name was Seanair Taghairm. We each said hello and dad did his usual parting quickly routine.

I thought to myself that this man had a very long name. I couldn't figure out why he was calling the man grandfather because I knew that he wasn't my father's grandfather. I was familiar with the Gaelic language, but had no idea what Taghairm meant.

My thoughts were interrupted as I walked into his house. I couldn't believe it, he had things, but none of the good stuff. He didn't have a television, DVD player, or anything to listen to music on. Mostly it was just bare and real clean.

He let me sit in the only chair looking thing in the room and he sat across from me on the floor. I was thinking he would talk to me a little at least, but he didn't. He just told me that he was in the middle of meditating and it would take a few more minutes of silence for him to finish. He did tell me if I was thirsty to go into the kitchen and get some water if I wanted to.

Now things were even stranger than I thought they would be at first. I was sitting there while he meditated in front of me, this was

going to be a very boring day.

I didn't even notice that I had lost track of what was going on around me until he broke the silence and asked me if I wanted to talk for a few minutes.

We only talked for a little while but I did learn a little about him. He liked airplanes just like I did. His name wasn't Seanair Taghairm which meant 'wise grandfather who pays attention to nature'. This name was given to him by his Druid friends. His favorite color was blue.



how much I liked his cooking as he made his own bowl and sat opposite from me. We ate and talked for awhile about the different things we gathered and how he used them for this soup. He told me I was a good kid and that I would grow up to be a great person. Just then a knock came from the front door. "Must be your parents" he said as he walked to the door and greeted them. As I left I thanked Seanair Taghairm for a great time and told him I had learned a lot.



My father walked me out to the car and asked me what I had done all day and I told him everything. He told me that he was happy I got such a great experience from this visit. He explained to me that the ancient Druids had a connection with nature similar to the one that Seanair Taghairm had. I agreed he was truly a wise grandfather connected with nature. I plan to spend some time with him in the future and learn all I can about him.

Today, though, I am playing with my grandmother who had a miracle cure over her heart condition the day that I visited Seanair Taghairm, it was the good thing he said would happen. I hope he is right about me growing up to be a great person.

I hope to be like my friend Seanair Taghairm when I grow up, I can't think of anybody better to be like.

Then he quickly stood up and motioned me to follow him outside. The light was so bright and I had to shield my eyes from its violent rays. I looked over at the man and he was standing there just staring up at sun. Now I was wondering if he was insane and just as I thought I should run for it he told me that it was 10:42. I asked him to explain how he would even know this without a clock? He explained to me how you can tell time by the sun. I didn't understand why he wouldn't just go buy a clock but this was so cool.

