

Getting started with nature writing



#30DaysWild

Nature is inspiring. Whether it's the pink explosion of a blossoming tree, the lilting song of a robin or the flickering flight of a butterfly, there are so many wild moments that spark emotions and inspire creativity. We've pulled together some tips to help you channel your creativity into writing.

Write for yourself

Nature writing doesn't have to be fancy or poetic. It's not necessarily about writing something for others to read and enjoy (though that's an added bonus), it's about writing for yourself as a way of connecting with nature and remembering a special experience. Write for fun and if you're happy with the result, then you can think about sharing it with other wildlife lovers, like the 30 Days Wild Facebook Group.

Make a journal

A good way to get started is with a nature journal. Take it a day at a time, writing about something wild you experienced that day. It could be factual, just listing things you saw and what they were doing; descriptive, setting the scene and telling a story; or emotional, sharing your thoughts and feelings about nature. Or a combination of all of these! Get even more creative by adding drawings or sticking in wild finds like leaves and feathers.

Always carry a notebook

You never know when creativity will strike, so it's always a good idea to have somewhere to jot down ideas wherever you are, and especially when you're out in nature. Slip a small notebook and a pen into your bag or pocket, or in a pinch use your phone to note things down when inspiration seizes you.



Try a different style

Challenge yourself by experimenting with how you write, testing different styles. Pen poems about nature, create stories from an animal's perspective, write diary-style entries about your own wild experiences, or research for an essay on a particular species or behaviour.

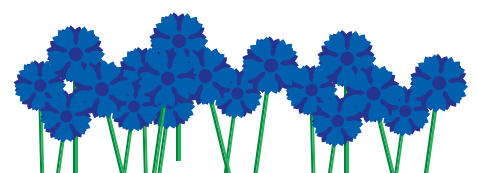
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Your own unique perspective is vital when it comes to writing about the natural world. Don't feel you have to fit a certain mould, or relate to nature in a particular way. What do you really think and feel?

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Melissa Harrison,
nature writer



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