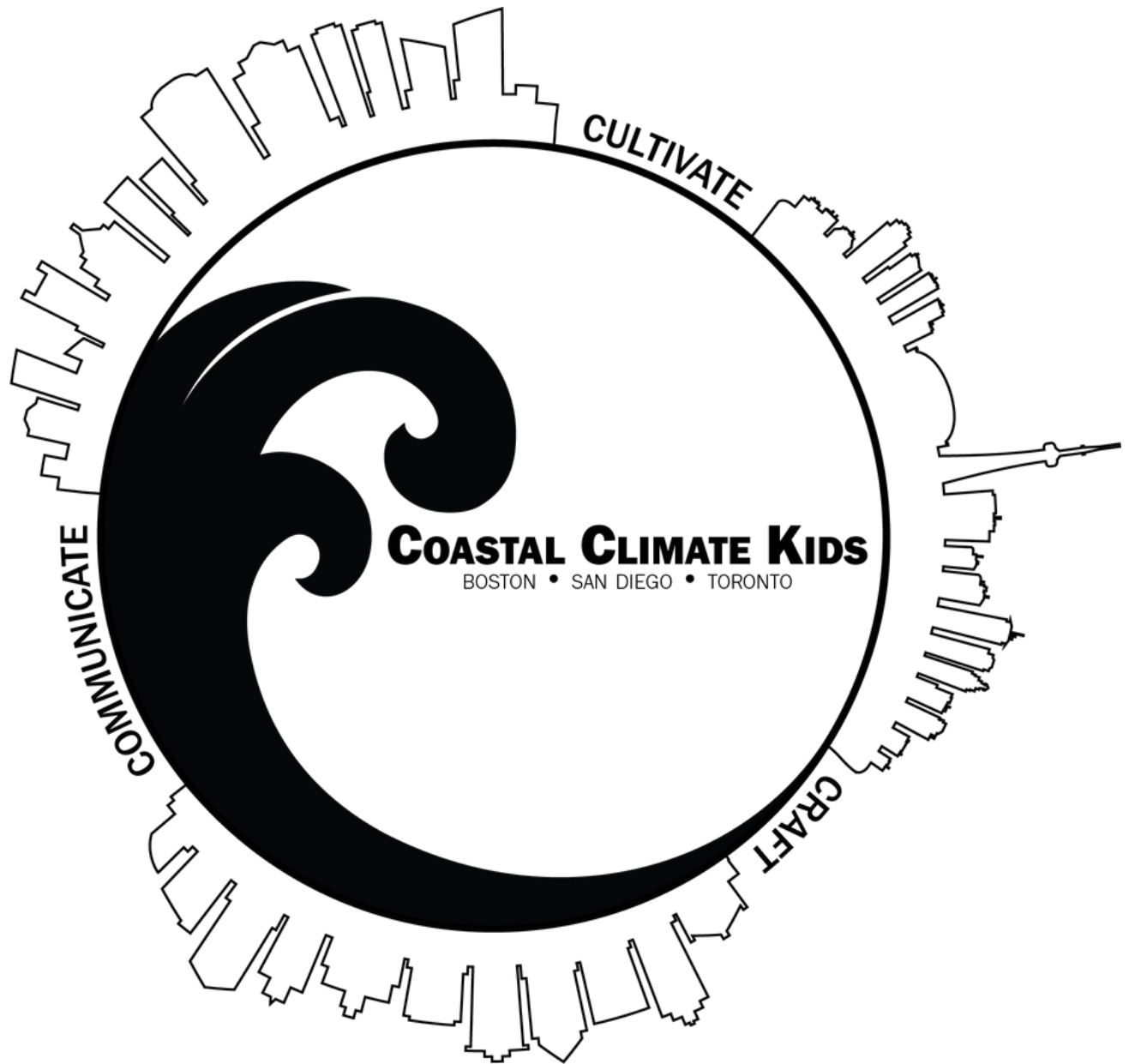




# COASTAL CLIMATE KIT 1: AUTUMN



# WELCOME!

## Welcome to the Coastal Climate Kid Collective!

We are excited you agreed to serve as a community ecologist. As you may already know, ecologists are scientists who study relationships between organisms and habitats of all sizes. From the tiniest of ants crawling on the sidewalk to the large bodies of water in our city, ecologists observe, notice and share about how humans, other organisms, and other parts of nature interact.

Each season, we will deliver a seasonal kit full of fun activities to help cultivate your skills as a kid ecologist. After completing some of the enclosed exercises, we hope you will send us two crafts you created so that we can share them on our Coastal Climate Kid website. The website showcases your work while connecting you to other kid ecologists from Boston, Massachusetts, San Diego, California, and Toronto, Ontario!

# SAFETY TIPS

- Complete this project with a trusted adult (they can observe and craft too!).
- Avoid touching anything that might be poisonous, sharp, dangerous, or items you are unsure about.
- Check the weather! Dress appropriately.
- Pay attention to signs at parks, trails, and beaches.
- Whenever possible, return natural materials to where you found them.



# CURIOSITY WALK

Seasons change. In Boston, for example, the crunchy crisp leaves of autumn disappear when winter brings cold temperatures and snow.

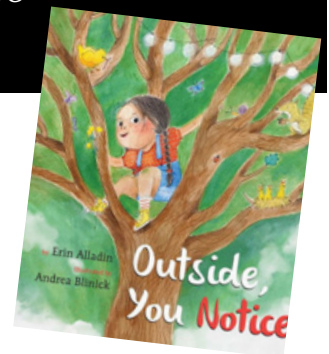
Whereas San Diego summers are dry and warm while Toronto springs are unpredictable, where you are – geographically – shapes how you sense and experience the seasons. Across the seasons, habitats change. Living and non-living things may move and our shared environment transforms.

## Step 1: Read Outside, You Notice

Each season, you will be asked to mark change by going on a curiosity walk. In our introductory walk, we will be using our ears for listening, our eyes for looking, our noses for smelling, and our fingers to explore with a gentle touch. Before you begin, read the book *Outside, You Notice*.

### Materials

- Your senses!
- Crayons
- Outside, You Notice*



## Step 2: Take a Walk

Walking with friends, caregivers, or community members, use your senses to:



### **Listen**

*Notice the loud and quiet noises, the human made, animal and plant-made noises*



### **Look**

*Notice the textures and sizes of organisms and objects and how they interact with the world around them*



### **Smell**

*Notice the smell of the air, the ground and plants around you*



### **Touch**

*Touch, lift, look under, leave.*

### Step 3: Create an *Outside, I Noticed* book

Using what you noticed on your walk, create your own version of *Outside, You Notice!* Using pencil or crayons, illustrate a scene from your walk and then tell about what you noticed and wondered about in this *Outside, I Noticed* book!.


# NATURE-BASED SELFIES

Step 1: Before heading outdoors, take a look at yourself in the mirror.

Does your hair curl, or is it stick-straight? Are your eyes brown, or are they another color? Remember what you look like and use the checklist to make sure you collect enough items to create a self-portrait.


Step 2: Head outside and gather natural materials to craft your selfie!

Keeping in mind what your reflection looks like, step outside and begin gathering materials for your selfie. Which of nature's offerings (e.g., sand, leaves) would be best suited for your self-portrait? Are your eyes like rocks and pebbles? Do your ears look like shells or acorns? Can leaves, petals, and/or sticks show how your hair flows long or how it stands up straight? As you identify useful natural items for your selfie, gather them in one place.



Checklist

- Hair
- Eyes
- Nose
- Mouth
- Ears
- Neck
- Skin
- Body



Materials

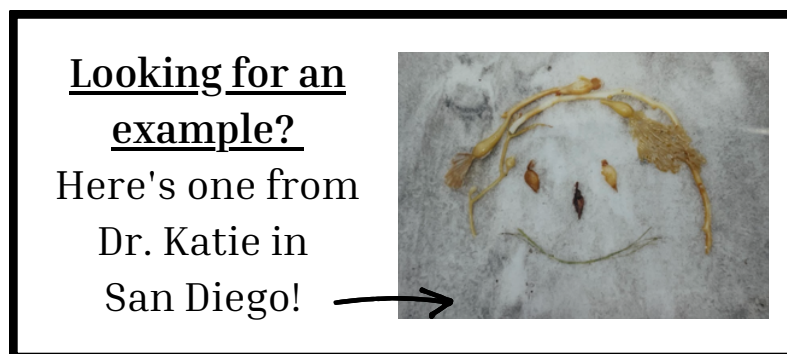
- camera
- film



### Step 3: Create your nature-based selfie

Use the natural materials you gathered and construct your selfie. Play and think with the materials. When you are satisfied with your nature-based selfie, use your camera to snap one or two pictures of it! Before you go inside, be sure to place the items you used in a nearby garden or lawn.

**Remember:** There is no wrong way to create your nature selfie! Your nature-based selfie reflects a perfect version of you!



### Step 4: Communicate

Choose ONE photo you want to share. Attach the photo to the next page and complete the enclosed artist's statement. Remove the page and return it in the enclosed envelope. In a few weeks, visit the Coastal Climate Kids Collective webpage at [www.coastalclimatekids.com](http://www.coastalclimatekids.com) to see your nature-based selfie and those of other kid ecologists!



# Nature-Based Selfie Artist Statement

Artist: \_\_\_\_\_

**Three things to know about me:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The most important thing to know about me is:

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**Check where you found the items used in your selfie:**

- By my house
- In my neighborhood
- In another part of my community

What makes my nature-based selfie unique is:

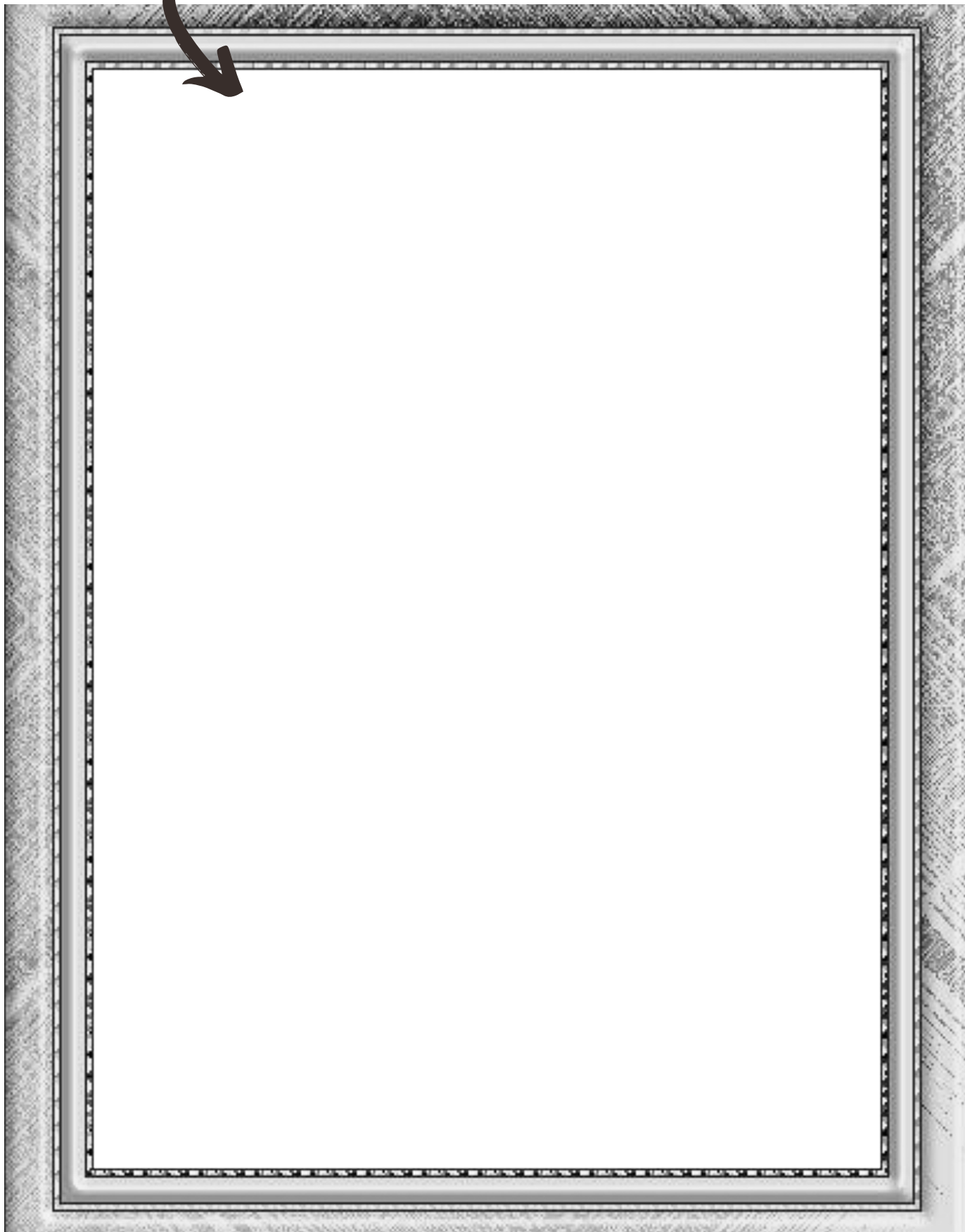
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Place your selfie here!



# LEAF RUBBINGS

Across ecosystems, there are organisms of different sizes and shapes. Each organism has unique structures that help it and other organisms thrive. Let's think about leaves! Some are bigger than your hand and others are as small as your fingernail. Pay attention to and wonder about leaves and their amazing structures by doing this craft.

## Materials

- leaves
- paper
- crayons



## Step 1: Observe the leaves in your environment

Notice the different sizes, shapes and colors of the leaves. Have you observed any details that you have not seen before this?

## Step 2: Gather a few leaves to use in your craft

Choose leaves that have fallen to the ground or pick only a few leaves off of plants and trees that have many leaves.

### Step 3: Create your leaf rubbings



a) Place the leaves face down on a table.

b) Place a piece of paper over the leaves.



c) Rub hard with the side of the crayons.

d) Experiment with different colors, leaves, and pressures.

### Step 4: Communicate

a) Choose a leaf rubbing that you would like to share with others.

b) Photograph it with and attach it to the back of the artist statement for the leaf rubbing, OR include one of your actual leaf rubbings in your return package.

c) Complete the enclosed artist's description.



# Leaf Rubbing Artist Statement

Artist : \_\_\_\_\_

Art title: \_\_\_\_\_

Two things my leaf rubbing highlights about my coastal community are:

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One thing I wonder about leaves is:

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# RETURN CHECKLIST

|  |                                                                       |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | I added my name to the Nature-Based Selfie Artist Statement.          |
|  | I glued my Nature-Based Selfie in the frame.                          |
|  | I put my Nature-Based Selfie pages in the envelope.                   |
|  | I added my name on my <i>Outside, I Noticed</i> book.                 |
|  | I added my <i>Outside, I Noticed</i> book to the envelope.            |
|  | <i>Optional:</i> I added my name to my Leaf Rubbing Artist Statement. |
|  | <i>Optional:</i> I added my Leaf-Rubbing to the envelope.             |
|  | <b>I had fun!</b>                                                     |

# HOW TO RETURN YOUR KIT

If you picked up your kit at SCHOOL,

you can:

- RETURN it to your teacher, OR
- UPLOAD it using the RedCAP link emailed to your caretaker.

If you received your kit in the MAIL,

you can:

- MAIL it back to us in the prepaid envelope, OR
- UPLOAD it using the RedCAP link emailed to your caretaker.

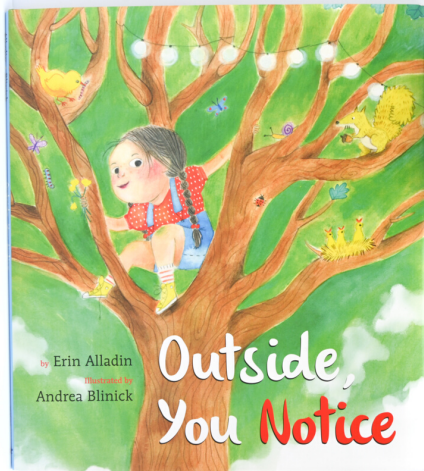
Remember:

- To receive the NEXT kit, you will need to return the items we requested.
- Each time you return a kit, you will also receive a GIFT CARD with your next kit as a thank you!





# WHAT'S IN YOUR KIT



Missing something?

Contact us at [coastalclimatekids@gmail.com](mailto:coastalclimatekids@gmail.com)!

Curious how to use the camera?

We've made an unboxing video and tutorial for you! Access it using this QR Code:



# LIVING IN RELATION

Knowing more about the history of where we are located is an important part of coming to know our local ecosystem and better understanding how we live in relation to it. To do so, we must also understand that people have lived in Boston, San Diego, and Toronto since long before these areas were colonized by Europeans who treated Indigenous peoples and their traditional lands as if they did not matter. Relatives of the Indigenous peoples who first inhabited and cared for the lands where our cities now stand still live in these areas today. Some of you may even be their descendants!

The Indigenous peoples in our regions have long-rooted relationships within these coastal communities. Many important geographic landmarks' names come from Indigenous languages that are specific to the peoples who cared for the lands in what we now know as Boston, San Diego, and Toronto. As a Coastal Climate Kid, we encourage you to express thanks for the land on which we live and play, and to the Indigenous peoples who have cared for the land before us, and make sure you think about their families and communities as you do these activities!

# **SAVE THE DATE!**

One of the most exciting parts of the Coastal Climate Kids Collective is that you will get the chance to meet other kid ecologists from Boston, San Diego, and Toronto through a cross-coastal event each season!

We hope you'll join us for our first event on:

**DECEMBER 8, 2022**

**7:00 PM ET / 4:00 PM PT**

(hosted on Zoom)

One week ahead of our first official meeting of the Coastal Climate Kids Collective, we will email details about how to join the meeting to your caretaker who registered you for our Collective online.

We can't wait to see you there!

# TIPS & TRICKS FOR USING YOUR INSTAX MINI 11

While some of you may already be experts at using a camera like this, we wanted to share a few tips and tricks to help you get the perfect picture of your nature-based selfie for display on the web and at our end-of-year showcase!

- Follow all instructions in the manual included with your camera.
- Be careful not to expose the film to light.
- Be sure that the lens cap is fully open before you take a photo.
- Attach the black lanyard found in your kit to your camera (we found it easier to carry the camera on our neck than our wrist!)

Want to avoid  
common mistakes?  
Use a smartphone or  
tablet to scan and learn  
what NOT to do!



PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING AND RETURN THIS ENVELOPE TO THE OAK PARK ELEMENTARY FRONT OFFICE BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

|  |                                                                       |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | I added my name to the Nature-Based Selfie Artist Statement.          |
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