

# Water Scavenger Hunt



Look for signs of spring together by finding water.

Use this activity by itself or with Water Bingo.

## Materials Needed:

Access to outside. Snow or rain boots, depending on the weather!

## Instructions:

Explore outside around your home or neighborhood. Whether on a busy street or in the woods, look for signs of spring and snow melting into water.



*Image: May Hokkaido.*

## Encourage your child(ren) to look around:

- 💧 Look up for water dripping from snowy roofs! Look out for rain!
- 💧 Look around you. Are there some places where there was snow, but now it's gone? Is there water instead?
- 💧 Look at trees. Do you notice the snow melting around the bases of tree trunks? Is there any snow on the branches?
- 💧 Feel snow in your hands. Is it melting?
- 💧 Look down to find puddles or streams.



*Image: Rupert Britton, Unsplash.*

## Explore puddles!

As the snow melts, take time to play in puddles! It is a delight for young children to rediscover water each spring.

*Note: Always supervise children when around water.*

# Explore Signs of Spring

As the long winter in Interior Alaska comes to an end, discover the many signs of spring approaching.

## The Official Date of Spring



Spring is here! The snow may be on the ground for a little longer, but you can **have a celebration to welcome spring** at home. (Make it extra fun and include a spring-themed cake or dancing!)

## Melting Snow and Water

Sunlight and warmer temperatures are helping to melt the snow. Go on a **Water Scavenger Hunt** outside or **play Water Bingo!** Explore water with April's Virtual Early Explorers.



## More Sunlight



Have you noticed the sun is staying up past bedtime? Each day, the sun stays up even longer. By the end of springtime, the sun will shine all night! **Hang a sun catcher in the window.**

## It's Getting Warmer

The nights may still be cold, but if the sun is shining during the day, you can feel its warmth. **Mark the day on your calendar when you first play outside without snow gear or a winter jacket!** With older kids, make a chart of the daily temperature.



## Migratory Birds Return

Look up at the sky for the return of Canada geese and sandhill cranes. Keep your ears tuned to hear bird songs. Notice the first American robins singing.



**Listen to an American Robin song here:**

[www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American\\_Robin/overview](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Robin/overview)

## Pussy Willows, Birch Sap, and "Leaf Out"



Plants are starting to wake up!

Soft catkins are starting to grow on pussy willow branches. **Watch for catkins. Collect one and feel how soft it is!**

Birch trees start producing sap 2-3 weeks before leaves come out! Some people collect birch sap to drink or make syrup. **Learn how to tap birch trees. Contact OneTree for information:** [onetreealaska.weebly.com/birch-sap-tapping.html](http://onetreealaska.weebly.com/birch-sap-tapping.html)

"Leaf out" is the day when birch and aspen leaves open just enough for us to see green. This usually happens around May 9<sup>th</sup>, but can be between late April and late May. **"Adopt" a tree, check on it often, and have a celebration when the leaves come out!**

## Animals Are Active

Springtime is a busy time for animals. Many will have babies!

**Go for a walk and find animal tracks.** Here is an example of snowshoe hare tracks in snow:



Snowshoe Hare: Image by Jean Beaufort, via publicdomainpictures.  
Tracks: Brewbooks, via Wikimedia Commons.