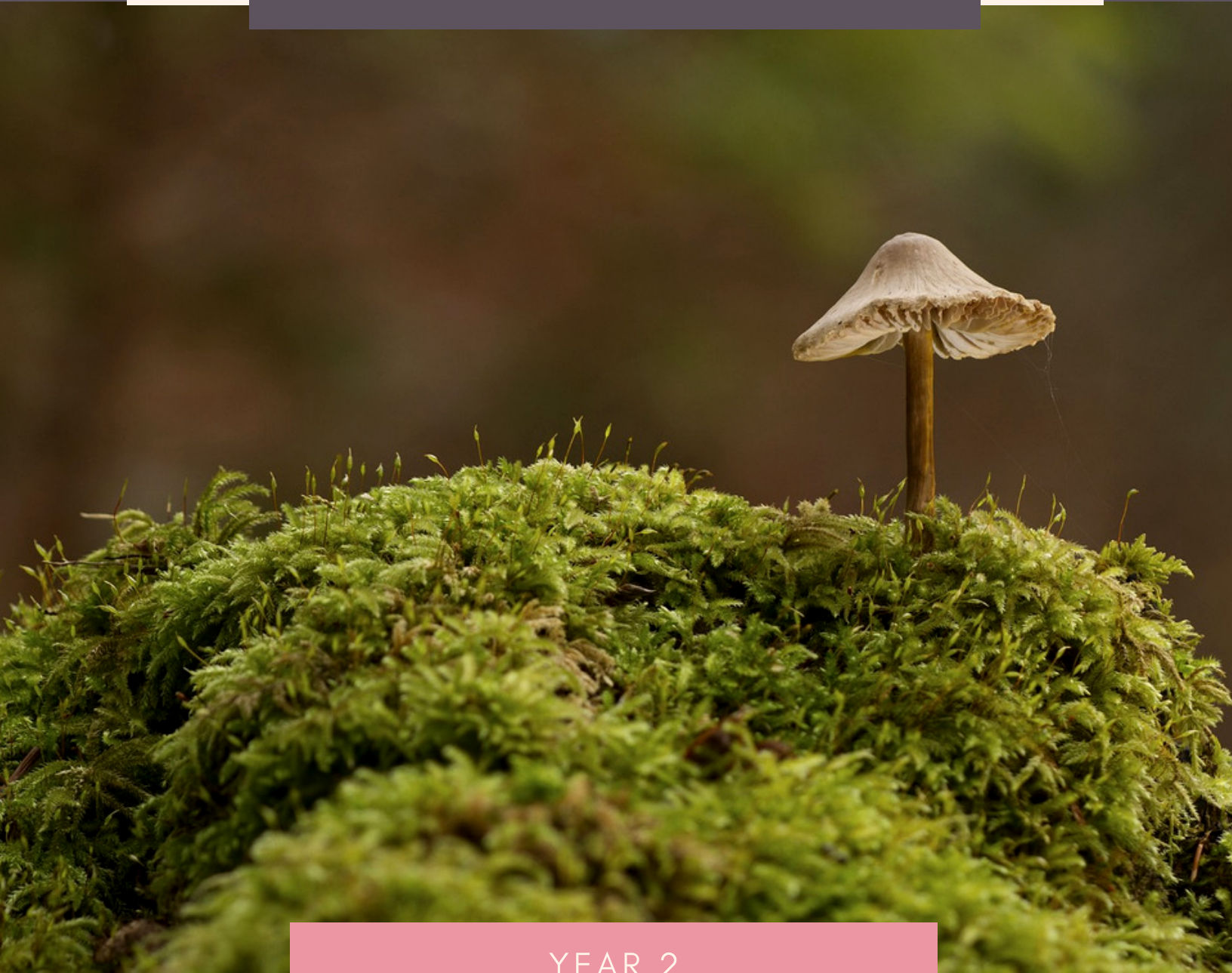


# BLOSSOM & ROOT

NATURE STUDY // YEAR 2

## *Wonders of the Plant & Fungi Kingdoms*

PARENT GUIDE



YEAR 2

Plants // Fungi // Lichen



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To report errors contact [kristina@blossomandroot.com](mailto:kristina@blossomandroot.com)  
Design by Kristina Garner  
Editing by Jason Garner

# *Blossom & Root*

Nature Study

Year 2:

## *Wonders of the Plant & Fungi Kingdoms*

A Complete Nature Study Curriculum

Grade 2

### **Blossom & Root Nature Study Year 2: Wonders of the Plant & Fungi Kingdoms**

By Kristina Garner - [www.blossomandroot.com](http://www.blossomandroot.com)

9462 Carlyle Park Pl.

Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Find Us on the Web at <https://www.blossomandroot.com>

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# Project 1: Botanical Calendar

## About the Project:

Making a calendar provides so many opportunities for learning experiences. It integrates math, spatial and drawing skills, and so much more. So why have we placed this activity in our nature study curriculum?

Most curriculum that is available for homeschoolers focuses on a late-summer to late-spring academic year in a temperate climate. However, for many students learning at home, this does not reflect their reality. Many live in places with only two seasons, or follow an academic year that begins in January. Many live where pumpkins and tulips are scarce, or where the new school year comes with rain and fog rather than apples and sunflowers.

Creating a calendar that looks like their world helps a child to connect the passage of time to their own experiences. It helps them to track the cycles and systems that happen where they are living. It helps them learn the rhythms of their own environment and home life. For this year's calendar, your child will decorate the pages with botanical specimens and photographs of botanical specimens they find each month. Be sure to make notes next to each specimen recording the date of its collection and location where it was found.

## How to Make a Calendar:

Show your child how to use a straight-edge to create the grid for a calendar page. Once they've made one grid, you may make 11 more photocopies rather than having them repeat that process 11 times.

For each month, they will write the days of the week at the top and number the boxes.

## Projects

### Project Timing:

Begin "Project 1: Botanical Calendar" as early in the second grade year as possible. Try to add at least one specimen to it each month (the more, the better!)

### Supplies You Will Need:

- Botanical specimens collected from the wild. Ideally, find flat leaves, flowers, etc. Be sure not to take any from national or state parks.
- A heavy book
- Several sheets of newspaper or similar
- Index cards
- A jar of Modge Podge
- Several cheap throw-away paint brushes
- A pen, a pencil
- A camera phone or digital camera
- Access to a place to print pictures
- Tape, a stapler
- A ruler
- Mixed media art paper

Use another calendar to refer to for the correct dates. In the boxes, they will mark holidays and special family celebrations. They will decorate the area above the calendar with botanical specimens (or photos of botanical specimens) collected on hikes and bush walks.

To press a botanical specimen, place it between two sheets of newspaper in a heavy book. Leave until pressed flat. You may want to make a note on an index card about where and when it was found, and place it beside the specimen, so you won't forget.

To preserve the specimen, protect a work area with newspaper. Brush the specimen on one side with Modge Podge, wait for it to dry, then repeat on the other side. Tape the specimen onto the calendar. For bulky specimens that won't lay flat, take a photo and tape it into the calendar.