

# Stream Sense

Did you know you are already a scientist? When you are playing outside, climbing trees, playing with sticks, you are **noticing** or **observing** things. We can enhance our observation skills by counting, looking for different shapes, colors, patterns and asking questions like how, when, and why.

Another way to be a scientist is to use your **senses** (sight, sound, touch, and smell) to explore the outdoors. How did you use your senses the last time you were near the Red River or at a park?

## Practice Using Your Senses

We may not see animals outside, but there are many signs that they are nearby. We may hear a bird call, find and feel fur from an animal shedding its winter coat, or see chew marks on a piece of wood. Use the blank lines and see if you can add to our list below. These are all animals you can find signs of near the Red River!



White Tailed Deer

**Sound:** Deer make a snort or wheezing sound when they are alarmed. \_\_\_\_\_

**Touch:** Deer hide and fur can be found on trees they rub on. \_\_\_\_\_

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Rabbit

**Sight:** Find scat or footprints in the snow. \_\_\_\_\_

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Mink

**Sight:** You may find dens or burrows which minks make their home. \_\_\_\_\_

**Smell:** Minks can discharge a musk smell similar to skunks. Unlike skunks, they cannot spray the musk. \_\_\_\_\_

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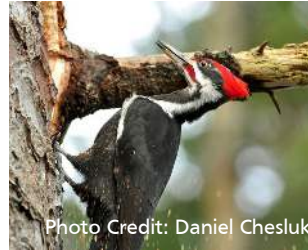


Photo Credit: Daniel Chesluk

Pileated Woodpecker

**Sound:** You may hear them pecking on wood. \_\_\_\_\_

**Touch:** Identify bird feathers you may find on the ground. \_\_\_\_\_

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Now go outside and record your observations using the scavenger hunt on the backside!

# River Scavenger Hunt

There are so many things to hear, see, feel and smell at a river... see if you can check off everything on the list below! Remember to leave everything you find except the garbage.

## Things happening:

- An ant moving something
- A leaf falling
- An animal eating
- A fish jumping
- The moving river



## Things to smell:

- A flower
- Green grass
- Mud or dirt

## Things to feel:

- Mud
- Smooth bark
- The wind
- Rotten wood



## Things to hear:

- A bee
- Leaves in the wind
- Leaves or twigs under feet
- A bird singing



## Things to pick up:

- A piece of garbage

## Things to see:

- A feather
- A hole in a tree
- A waterfowl bird
- A spider web with a bug in it