

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Joey and the Field Guide

Joey's uncle gave him a book called *The Southeast American Flora and Fauna Field Guide* for his birthday. With this book, Joey could identify many different species of plants and animals, simply by looking them up. He went for a walk around the pond behind his apartment complex to test his new gift.

First, Joey saw a plant in the water with purple flowers. He looked in the plant section of his field guide. Next, he flipped to the section titled "Water-Dwelling Flowering Plants." There were many plants in this section. Joey wondered how he would be able to identify which plant it was. The book instructed Joey to count the number of leaves on the plant, and then to count the number of petals on the flower. Joey counted two leaves and four petals. With this information, Joey was able to successfully identify the plant. It was a blue flag, a type of wild iris that grows in humid pond areas.



Next, Joey decided that he wanted to try to observe an animal at the pond and then classify it using his book. He saw a bright red bird with black across its eyes. It was perched on a nearby tree, chirping. This time Joey searched in the animal part of the field guide under "Calling Birds." He flipped past the section about black-colored birds, past the section about blue-colored birds, until he arrived at the section about red-colored birds. There on the page, he saw a red bird with black across its eyes just like the one in the tree—a cardinal!

Joey enjoyed this new gift. He decided that he would make a habit of using his field guide to learn about plants and animals in other environments.