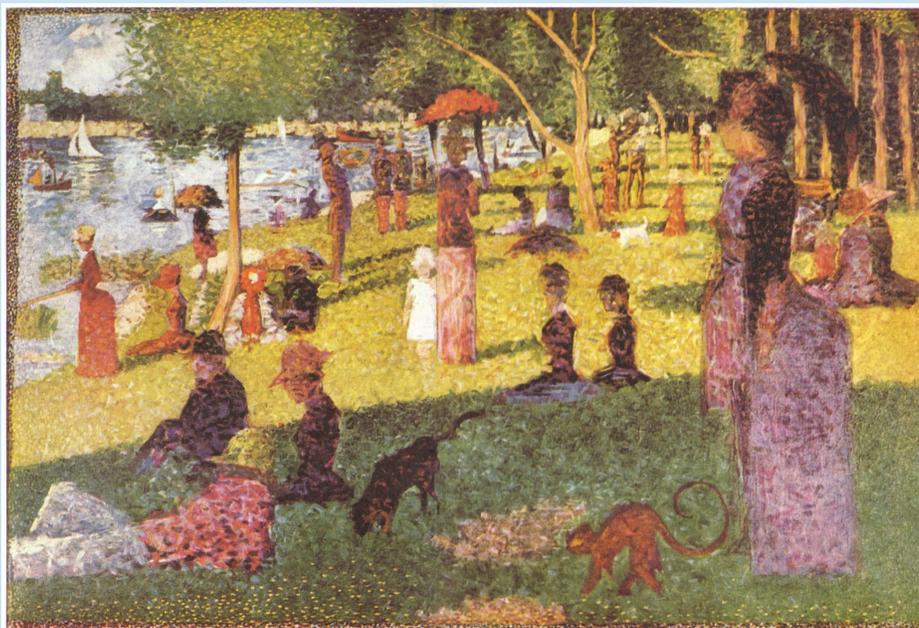


Outdoor Hour Challenge
Spring Weather Mini-Unit
With Georges Seurat Artist Study

<http://handbookofnaturestudy.blogspot.com>



For more Handbook of Nature Study activities,
please see my blog:

<http://handbookofnaturestudy.blogspot.com>

For more Art Mini-Units, please see this link:

[Harmony Fine Arts Mini-Units](#)

For more of my Freebies:

[Harmony Art Mom's Freebies](#)

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<http://handbookofnaturestudy.blogspot.com>
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Resource and Supplies List

One Book is Required:

This challenge will include reading in the *Handbook of Nature Study* by Anna Botsford Comstock.
Handbook of Nature Study ISBN 0801493846

Online version of the Handbook of Nature Study

General supplies:

Nature Journal:

Pencil or colored pencils for recording your observations.

Optional activities:

Cloud Finder: Cardstock, scissors, and a fastener or brad.

Shadow Stick: See the Handbook of Nature Study for details.

Art Project:

Watercolors, q-tips, watercolor paper, masking tape



For Further Study:

If you would like more Spring Nature Study and Art Appreciation, you might consider ordering my ebook:

Spring Nature Study with Art and Music Appreciation.

This ebook contains ten Outdoor Hour Challenge, three monthly artist and composer studies, notebook pages, and complete instructions with links.

All of my Outdoor Hour Challenges can be found on my blog:

Handbook of Nature Study



Spring Series #2

Spring Weather Observations

More Spring Activities: LINK

Inside Preparation Work:

Read pages 851-854 in the *Handbook of Nature Study*.

[Free Download Version: Earth and Sky volume, PDF pages 99-103 or HNS pages 913-917]

This section is not exactly about weather, but it ties in nicely with some springtime observations of the sun and its path. You might like to construct the Shadow Stick (instructions in the reading in the Handbook of Nature Study) and make observations over the next few weeks and months with your children. At the very least, look up your sunrise and sunset times to calculate how much daylight you have now that it is spring in your area.

Outdoor Hour Time:

Your Outdoor Hour time this week can be spent making observations about the weather. Enjoy whatever spring weather you are currently experiencing and spend 15 minutes outside looking at the sky, clouds, wind in the trees, dew on the grass, mud puddles after a rain, or whatever else you can experience in your part of the world.

Suggested Observations

- Have your children describe any clouds they see in the sky.
- Notice how hard the wind is blowing by how things are moving: leaves rustling, trees bending, etc.
- Notice the wind's direction. Where is it coming from?
- Describe the temperature of the air and/or look it up on a thermometer.
- Notice any precipitation that you may have this week: sprinkles, rain, mist, sleet, snow, fog, hail.



If you made a Shadow Stick, make sure you spend one day marking the board every half hour from 9 AM to 3 PM. This experiment will need to be repeated again in June, September, and December if possible.



Follow-Up Activity:

Be sure to complete your [Seasonal Weather notebook page](#) from the sidebar of my blog or from the Spring Series notebook pages. If you completed previous weather notebook pages, pull those out and compare the scenes you recorded in Autumn and/or Winter. Note that your days should be getting longer and any other differences you can find between the observations made in the past and now.

Extra Information on Clouds

If you observed any clouds, you might like to download this lesson plan and cloud identifier activity for your children.

CloudKey.pdf: <http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonrepro/reproducibles/profbooks/cloudkey.pdf>

Weather Videos on YouTube:

Water Cycle: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YswL4dIDQuk>

Our World: What is Weather? (NASA) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UtgFHHhm1xU>



Spring Weather Observations

Date	Location:	Time:	Cloud Type:
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Temperature	
Wind (Speed and Direction)	
Precipitation	
Time of sunrise/Time of sunset	
Total hours of daylight	

Sketch the spring scene in your neighborhood. Don't forget to include any clouds you observed.

Georges Seurat

(zhorzh syu-RAH)

1859-1891

French Neo-Impressionist



Suggested Artist Study:

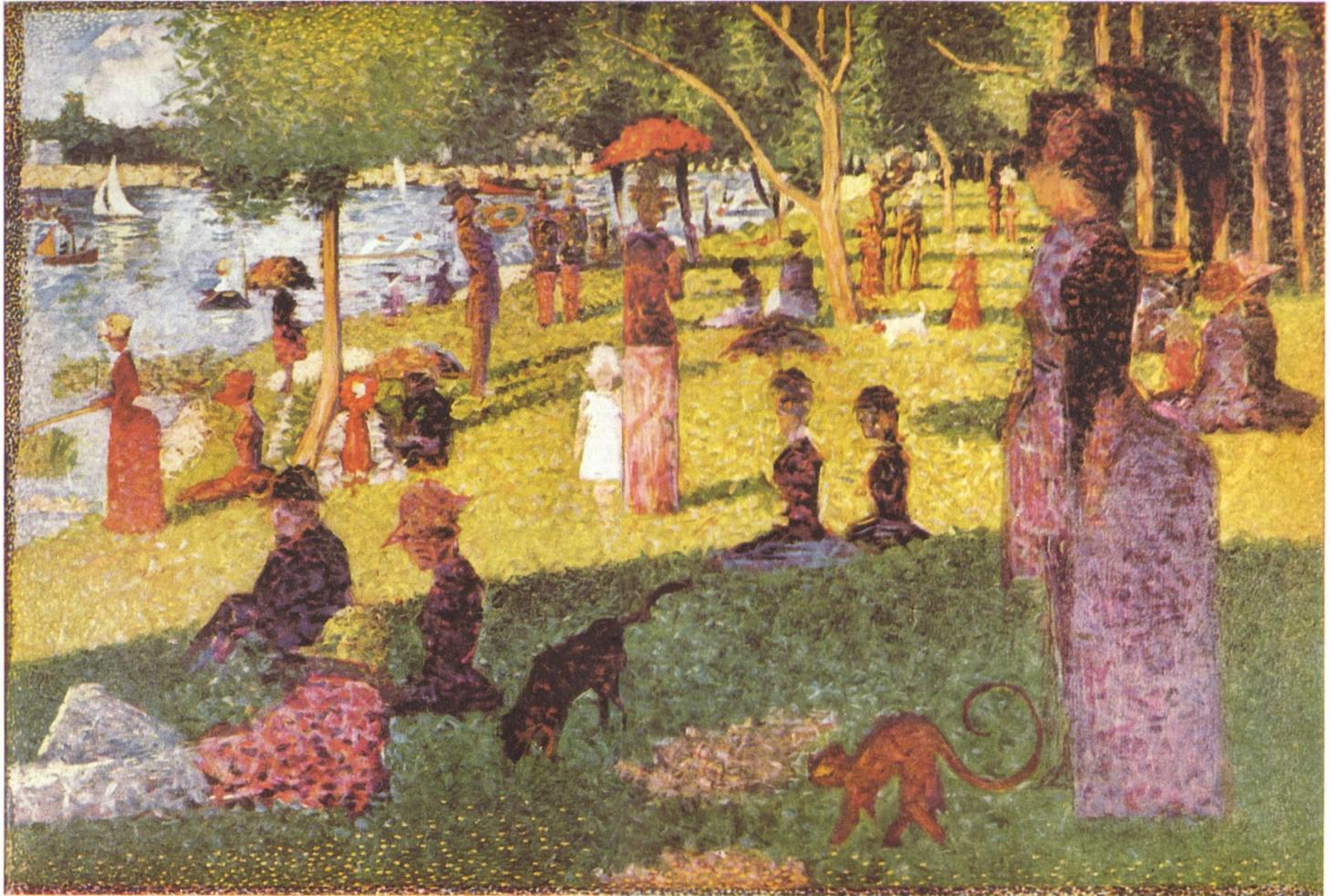
Day One: View *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*. You can either view it on your computer or you can print out the painting to put into your notebook.

Learn a little bit more about Pointillism here at this [LINK](#). Enlarge *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* and see if you see the dots and colors Seurat used to make this painting.

Day Two: View *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* for a few additional moments and then have your child narrate what they see in this painting. You can record their narrations on the accompanying notebook page.

Day Three: Optional Art Project: Go to this [LINK](#) at KinderArt and complete the assignment using *The Seine at La Grande Jatte, Spring*. Pick a portion of the painting to copy into your art notebook with paints and a q-tip.

Day Four: Complete your artist notebook page for Georges Seurat. Here is a link to a simple biography for [Georges Seurat](#).



A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jette, 1884. Georges Seurat.

