



How to...

BRIGHT IDEA

In 1861, Scottish scientist James Clerk Maxwell took the first color photograph, of a plaid ribbon.



You can find photo inspiration everywhere.

Take pictures of nature

Learn to capture the natural beauty of the world around you.

Nature photography is about capturing natural elements of the outdoors, from wildlife to plants to weather. It can be done anywhere, with a camera or with your phone. "Nature photography is an amazing tool that you can use to capture and share what's important to you," professional nature photographer Jesse Burke told *The Week Junior*. Here's how to get started.

Choose a setting

First, decide where you want to take nature photos. If you're a beginner, you can start in your own neighborhood or in a local park. You can plan to shoot local wildlife, like birds or squirrels, or magnificent trees. As you get more experience, you can use what you learn when you visit other natural settings, like a state or national park. Try to tell a story with your photos, suggests Burke. In addition to taking photos of the overall scenery and the wildlife you see, you can shoot close-ups of other natural wonders, like a flower in bloom. "When you look at all the pictures together later, you get a richer narrative," says Burke.

Take photos in the best light

When taking photos outside, you'll always be working with the natural light that comes from the sun. Two of the best times to shoot are the "golden hours" each day—just after the sun rises and right before it sets. This is

when the sun casts a natural, gentle glow that's ideal for photographs. Anytime you shoot outside, keep the sun's position over your subject in mind, says Burke. For example, if you want to get a shot of an animal in front of a landscape, you should have the sun to your back so the light is shining on your subject.

Frame your shots

Decide what you want to see inside the frame of your shot and also consider what you don't want to see, says

Burke—like an object in the way. When you're about to take a photo, look through the viewfinder of your camera or on the screen of your smartphone. Turn your camera a little to the right, then to the left. Observe how this changes the shot and whether one side looks better. You can also experiment with angles, like pointing your camera toward the ground or up to the sky.

Keep experimenting

The best way you can become a stronger nature photographer is to practice, Burke told *The Week Junior*. If you want to learn more technical skills, like mastering your camera settings, you might consider taking a photography class. Ask an adult to help you check with your school or a local art center. Or you could consider taking an online photography course from a website like outschool.com or khanacademy.com.



Try different camera angles.

Meet our photo contest judges

These inspiring photographers will be helping to judge entries for *The Week Junior's* Nature Photo Contest. See the contest details at right!

Jesse Burke

He uses his work to tell the story of the relationship between people and nature. He is known for his photos that document the road trips he takes to introduce his three daughters to the joy of the outdoors. See his work at jesseburke.com.



Angela Ledyard

She was inspired to try photography at a young age when her grandfather

showed her how to use his camera. Today, the landscape and nature photographer specializes in taking super close-ups and using tools like drones to capture sweeping overhead views. See her work at angelaledyard.com.



Ami Vitale

In her work as a photographer, filmmaker, and writer, she has traveled to more than 100 countries. She views her work, which sheds light on human and environmental injustices, as a tool to create awareness around the world. She is considered one of the most influential conservation photographers today. See her work at amivitale.com.



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