



Contest

PHOTO FACT

The first known underwater color photograph was taken off the Florida Keys in 1926.



Take amazing pictures of nature

Learn to capture the outdoor beauty all around you.

Nature photography is about taking pictures of natural elements outdoors, from wildlife to weather. It can be done anywhere, with a camera or a phone, and is a great way to document the natural scenery around you. "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.

Pick a setting

First, choose where you want to take nature photos. If you're a beginner, you can start in your neighborhood or a local park. You can shoot wildlife, like birds or squirrels, or zoom in on trees that reflect a change of seasons. As you gain experience, you can work up to bigger settings, like landscapes. Try to tell a story with photos, Burke suggests. Take some of the overall scenery, then wildlife, and a few close-ups, like dew drops on a leaf. "When you look at all the pictures together later, you get a richer narrative," he says.

Use natural light to your advantage

Two of the best times to shoot are the "golden hours" each day—just after sunrise and right before sunset. This is when the Sun casts a natural, gentle glow that's ideal

for photos. Keep in mind the Sun's position in the sky, 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.

Try different angles

Decide what you do and don't want to see inside the frame of your shot, says Burke. When you're about to take a photo, look through the viewfinder of your camera or on the screen of your phone. Turn your camera a little to the right, then to the left.

Observe how this changes the shot and whether one side looks better. Vary your angles. Point your camera toward the ground or up to the sky to capture those vantage points as well.

Keep experimenting

The best way to become a stronger photographer is to practice, says Burke. If you'd like to learn technical skills, consider taking a photography class. Ask an adult to help you check with local art centers or look for an online course, such as one at outschool.com or khanacademy.org. You may also decide to enter our Nature Photo Contest! Get to know the photographers helping to judge the contest (at right) and see the entry form on the next page.



Frame your shot.

Meet the judges

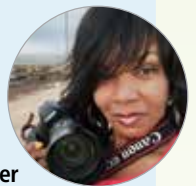
Jesse Burke

He likes to document humans' relationship with nature, including life on his farm with his three daughters. See his work at jesseburke.com.



Angela Ledyard

She became interested in photography while watching her grandparents take photos. Now she finds inspiration in landscapes and more. See her work at angelaledyard.com.



Ami Vitale

She works as a photographer, filmmaker, and writer and is considered one of the most influential conservation photographers today. See her work at amivitale.com.



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