

Nature at Night Educational Resources

This theme opens up a world of exploration. "Our Nature at Night" can reflect the nocturnal world around Bloomington. As you consider your submission options, here are some resources that may be helpful.

Nocturnal Animals

- 24 Types of NOCTURNAL Animals in Indiana! (2026)
List of 24 Nocturnal Animals in Indiana with descriptions and maps of their ranges.
<https://birdwatchinghq.com/nocturnal-animals-in-indiana/>
- Bats of Indiana
Learn more about the 13 bat species found in Indiana from the DNR: Indiana Department of Natural Resources.
<https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/nongame-and-endangered-wildlife/bats-of-indiana/>

Birds at night

- Owls of Indiana, Vocalizations
Identify owl sounds on night hikes with this 10 minute video from the Crawfordsville District Public Library. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IleEj7CnMBA>
- *Protecting Migrating Birds One Night at a Time*
An article by the Indiana Audubon about how light pollution affects migrating birds.
<https://indianaaudubon.org/lights-out-indiana/>
- *Artificial light at night changes seasonal responses in birds*
An Indiana University article about how birds are affected by artificial light at night.
https://eri.iu.edu/news-and-events/_news/archive/2021/20210427-alan-changes-seasonal-responses-in-birds.html

Amphibians at night

- Nocturnal Reptiles and Amphibians
Article on the unique adaptations that reptiles and amphibians have developed to thrive in darkness. <https://herping.com/2025/04/04/nocturnal-reptiles-amphibians/>
- Frogs and Toads
The vast majority of frogs are nocturnal. Learn more about the frogs in Indiana at the Indiana Herp Atlas with photos and descriptions.
https://www.inherpatlas.org/group/frogs_and_toads

- Frogs and Toads of Indiana
Click to listen to 18 different types of frog calls from the Purdue University Forestry and Natural Resources webpage.
<https://www.purdue.edu/fnr/extension/frogs-and-toads-of-indiana/>

Insects at night

- Say's Firefly, Indiana's Official State Insect
Read about fireflies on Indiana's Department of Natural Resources page.
<https://www.in.gov/dnr/entomology/resources-and-links/says-firefly/>
- Common Moths and Butterflies of Indiana
Most moths are nocturnal. Click to see photos of the moths that fly at night
<https://www.inaturalist.org/guides/8027>
- All About Moths
Article about Moth Week and links to a community project throughout the state of Indiana that documents the life cycles and overall range of Indiana's Lepidoptera. The order Lepidoptera includes insects like butterflies, moths, and skippers.
<https://www.carmelclayparks.com/all-about-moths/>

Books

- *Keepers of the Night* by Michael Caduto and Joseph Bruchac.
Native stories and nocturnal activities for kids. Borrow this book for free at:
<https://archive.org/details/keepersofnightna0000cadu/page/n21/mode/2up>
- *Wild Nights Out: The Magic of Exploring the Outdoors After Dark* by Chris Salisbury
Hands-on guide for all ages. Find a wealth of unique activities to explore the natural world from dusk till dawn. Available at Hoopla and the library.
- *After Dark : Poems about Nocturnal Animals* by David Lee Harrison
Engaging collection of twenty-one poems about the hidden lives of nocturnal animals. Available at the Monroe County Library.

Space and Moon Phases

- NASA Science: Moon Phases
The NASA Space Place website is geared for upper-elementary-aged kids' with material in both English and Spanish. Includes a basic description of moon phases, links to interactive moon views, and links for educators with crafts, activities, videos, and coloring pages. <https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/moon-phases/en/>

- The Sky Tonight from Indiana:
Interactive website showing the constellations viewable from Indiana by day and time.
Links to moon calendars and cool 3D Solar System viewer.
<https://theskylive.com/guide?geoid=5194868>

Light Pollution and the Night Sky

- Lost at Night Application
This application is designed to help georeference images taken by astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS). The goal is to create a global map of Earth's lights at night to measure and track light pollution. <https://lostatnight.org/>
- DarkSky's Home Outdoor Lighting Assessment
This page includes links to a downloadable .pdf assessment and activity designed to help you reduce light pollution around your home to support a healthy and thriving nighttime environment. <https://darksky.org/get-involved/home-lighting-assessment/>

Camping at Night

- We Can Camp!
Discover more about nighttime with a program at Conner Prairie to learn basic camping skills and spend the night in-site in a tent. Perfect for first-time campers. Camping gear provided. <https://www.connerprairie.org/we-can-camp/>