

## Meadowlark Collective Elementary and Middle School Science

We are basing our science curriculum on Charlotte Mason's ideas. Charlotte Mason was a teacher at the turn of the 20th Century. She believed children were individual persons who were best educated by providing a rich atmosphere (home surroundings), discipline (good habits), and living academic works (not dry facts, but complete ideas and opportunity to explore them).

As homeschoolers we are blessed to have the opportunity to let our children's interests play a part in what they are learning. To make things more individual, our **3rd-8th** grade science classes will have five components:

1. **A Spine Text.** This is the main science book we are going through as a class. Students will be given homework sheets weekly that explain what pages we are reading. Our Thursday class will most often be full of activities and experiments to reinforce what the students have learned from this book.
2. **A Nature Lore Book.** Nature Lore books are broader books written by Naturalists that give information about things seen around us in nature. These are read a few pages at a time, once a week, throughout the year. The parent chooses a book they think their child will find interesting. The goal of this book is to help students know a bit about nature to help them in recognizing things they see outside.
3. **A Special Study.** A specific item or animal to study will be suggested by the teacher. The student (with the parent's help) decides on exactly which organism they want to study. For example, our first special study topic this year will be a small mammal. Your child might choose a chipmunk, mouse, squirrel, bat, rabbit...etc. Ideally it would be a small mammal they could observe in the wild on a regular basis for a few weeks. ***\*\*If your child has a different organism they really want to study, it is more important that they are interested in the topic than that they are following the class.*** Please let them study the organism they prefer. The parent will help find library books or online resources the child can read/view to learn a little more about their special study topic. Together the parent and student will think of things they would like to know about it and look for those answers over the span of a few weeks. New special study topics will be chosen every 4-6 weeks.
4. **Nature Walks.** Several afternoons a week, the students will be asked to go on a nature walk with their parent. This is to allow them to spend time outside watching, playing, noticing things around them and ways those things are changing. If they are able to see their special study during this time, they should try to visit it.

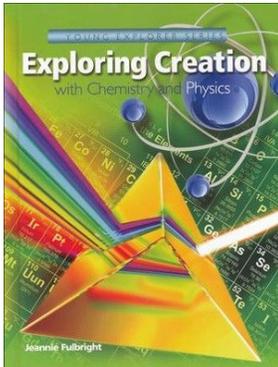
5. **Narration.** Students will give written or oral summaries and/or sketches of what they have learned through their reading. These will be recorded in their science notebook (a composition book).

## Book Lists

### Spine Texts

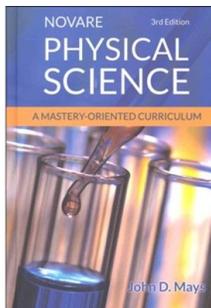
#### 3rd-6th grade

Apologia's *Exploring Creation with Chemistry and Physics* by Jeannie Fullbright



#### 7th-8th grade

Novare's *Physical Science* by John D. Mays



### Some Suggested Nature Lore Books: (or pick another of your choosing)

[A Bunch of Wild Flowers for the Children](#) by Ida Prentice Whitcomb (140 pp.)

[A Pair of Wings](#) by Marilyn Singer

[African Critters](#) by Robert Haas (95 pp. but PB style, 8 sections. Sometimes Charlotte Mason assigned a book in this spot that was of zoo animals or of animals in far off places.)

[Among the Meadow People](#) by Clara Dillingham Pierson

[Animal Life in Fields and Garden](#) by Jean Henri Fabre (412) \*\*harder



[Burgess Bird Book for Children](#) by Thornton Burgess

[By Pond and River](#) by Arabella Buckley

[Christian Liberty Nature Readers](#), Books 1-5 by Worthington Hooker (these progress in reading level)

[Eyes and No Eyes Series](#) by Arabella Buckley Dallas Lore Sharp's

[Insect Adventures](#) by Jean Henri Fabre (298 pp.)

[James Herriot's Treasury for Children](#) by James Herriot

[Squirrels and Other Fur-Bearers](#) by John Burroughs

[Wild Life in Woods and Fields](#) by Arabella Buckley

[The Storybook of Science](#) by Jean Henri Fabre

[The Secret of Everyday Things](#) by Jean Henri Fabre (381 pp.)

[The Lay of the Land](#) by Dallas Lore Sharp, 214 pages

[Life and Her Children](#) by Arabella Buckley

[Nearer Nature](#) by Jim Arnosky (160 pp.)

[Plant Life in Field and Garden](#) by Arabella Buckley

[Terry and the Caterpillars](#) by Millicent Selsam

[Tommy Smith's Animals](#) by Edmund Selous

[Trees and Shrubs](#) by Arabella Buckley