EARTH DAY 2020 CHALLENGE: I Spy with a Scientists Eye!

Using the pictures below as an example, search to find these twelve climate- and environment-related things in and around your home and neighbourhood. Submit a photo of you doing this challenge OR a picture of the subject item that was most tricky to find: post it on social media, be sure to tag @WaterlooSci and use the hashtag #EarthDayChallengeUW, OR email them to us. Winners will be randomly selected for the prize of an video chat with one of our own scientists!

The contest closes on Friday, April 24, 2020 at 11:59 AM EST. Winners will be notified by direct message or email before 5:00 PM Friday, April 24, 2020, in order to organize your prize.

*By submitting a photo, you are consenting to its use on the Faculty of Science social media accounts. Photos of children should not include recognizable features like faces.

1. Zoologists study animals. Did you know that worms aren’t insects, but animals? Try using the red wiggler variety to build your own at home vermicompost.

2. Can you find a tree that is starting to get leaves? Dendrology is the study of trees. Bonus point if you can find a sprouting acorn - a baby tree!

3. Limnologists study freshwater places like lakes, rivers, and streams. If you don’t live near water, where do you find fresh water in your house?

4. What clouds can you see from your window? Cirrus? Cumulonimbus? Studying these makes you a cloud scientist, a nephologist!

5. Entomologists observe insects. They might see how different insects get along in the same place, or how they react to things that humans do.

6. Rocks tell geologists a lot about past environments: what was living then, or what was in the air and water.

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**EARTH DAY 2020 CHALLENGE:**

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Make sure to always recycle **plastic** where it belongs! Aquatic ecologists learn about how bad plastic can be for fish, plants, and other animals if it makes its way to water environments.

**Glaciologists are cool scientists that study frozen water – ice!** Higher temperatures on Earth cause large pieces of natural ice like glaciers to melt more and more each year.

**Edaphologists are soil scientists.** They examine how soil can best feed plants, what types of soils are found where, or even how to remove pollution from soil!

**Mycologists study fungi, including **mushrooms** or **lichen**.** These organisms will eat anything, even garbage or unhealthy chemicals!

**Plants of all shapes and sizes interest a botanist, who might study whether the plant can make medicine or food for us.** See how many different **plants** you can find in your area!

**We can’t travel every day, but many **birds** travel a long way every year.** What birds are living in your neighbourhood this week? A scientist who studies birds is called an ornithologist.

**Bonus!**

What do we call scientists that study fossils?

[Link to website](uwaterloo.ca/science/outreach)