

Hunting Unit Study



An Excellent Prerequisite to
Hunter's Safety Course!

3rd-6th Grade



Teacher Manual

**Learn Language Arts Skills Through
This Hands-on Unit Study Curriculum:**

**Reading, Comprehension, Writing,
Sentence Structure, Spelling & Vocabulary!**

By Deanna Holm



Discover Unit Studies .com

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About This Unit Study

I created this unit study for my 11-year-old son who has an interest in hunting. He has only been out scouting and hunting a couple times with my husband and he wanted to learn more. I naturally began thinking of how I could make this topic academic and kill two birds with one stone which keeps him engaged with his school work. I made this unit study with a focus on language arts skills. I hope it blesses your son or daughter as well.

This would be a great prerequisite to hunter's safety course.

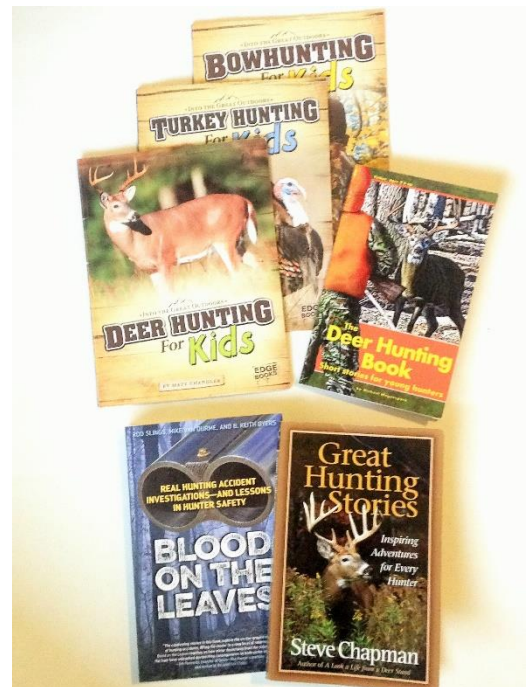
What You Will Need for This Course

1. Student Readers

- Deer Hunting for Kids by Matt Chandler
- Turkey Hunting for Kids by Tyler Omoth
- Bow Hunting for Kids by Melanie Howard
- The Deer Hunting Book: Short Stories for Young Hunters by Michael Waguespack (Fiction, ages 9 & up)

2. Parent Read Aloud Books

- Great Hunting Stories: Inspiring Adventures for Every Hunter by Steve Chapman (this is such a great book! I read this out loud to my children and we all enjoyed the wonderful stories in it. If your child is a strong reader, they could read this on their own.)
- Blood on the Leaves by Rod Slings, Mike Van Durme, and B. Keith Byers (Real Hunting Accident Investigations- and Lessons in Hunter Safety. ***This book will give your child a healthy fear of hunting which will make them a safe and wise hunter. The end of each chapter includes Lessons Learned which are great for discussion. **Not all of the stories are appropriate for young children so be sure to filter them as you read. Some of the stories are graphic or of sensitive nature.** I HIGHLY believe this book is a MUST read for any hunter.... great wisdom of what NOT to do! ***)



3. Optional **** A local wildlife field guide book for the state you live in**** I bought my boys the book: Wildlife of the Pacific Northwest: Tracking and Identifying Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, and Invertebrates by David Moskowitz

4. You will need to access your states wildlife hunting regulation website for research purposes.

Washington State- www.wdfw.wa.gov

5. A copy of your states Hunting Seasons & Regulations booklet. You can get this at a sporting store or Walmart.

6. A printed copy of the Hunting Unit Study: Student Notebooking Pages by Deanna Holm. I recommend that you print student pages on cardstock.

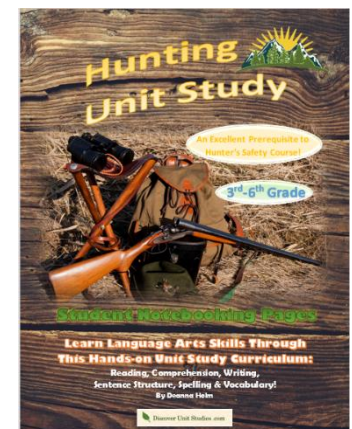
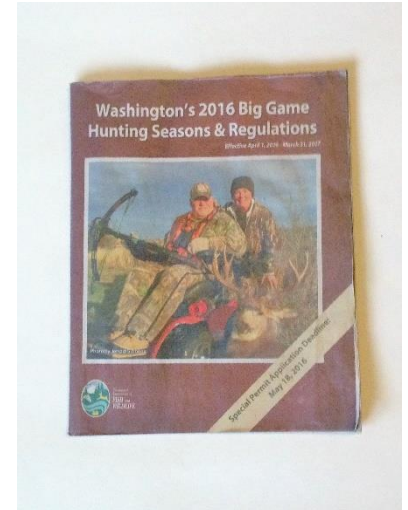
Your child will make their own hunting book as they study and research this topic.

Materials needed to make this book:

- recycled cereal box for a front cover and back cover
- One copy (per student) of the Hunting Unit Study: Student Notebooking Pages
- three-hole punch
- String, yarn, twine or paracord to tie the front cover, notebooking pages and back cover together
- glue

7. You will want a BB gun, bow and arrows, trapping equipment or any other hunting equipment for field trips and activities. See the Field Trip section for more information on my field trip and activity suggestions

8. Optional: For some of the lessons your student will be asked to draw or glue on a picture. I have 3 suggestions for this. 1.They could draw. 2. You may want some recycled hunting magazines or sporting ads from the newspaper for them to find hunting related pictures. If you visit a local sporting goods store you may find they have a newspaper ad available for you to take. 3. You could print out pictures from the internet to use.



Make Hunting Book

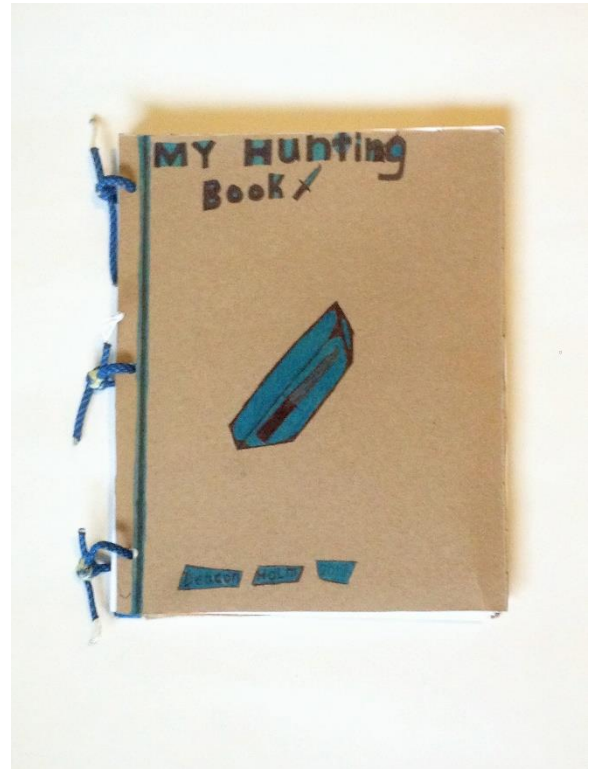
Your child will make their own hunting book as they study and research this topic.

Materials needed to make this book:

- recycled cereal box for a front cover and back cover
- One copy (per student) of the Hunting Unit Study: Student Notebooking Pages
- three-hole punch
- String, yarn, twine or paracord to tie the front cover, notebooking pages and back cover together
- glue

Directions:

1. Punch holes in the notebooking pages using the 3-hole punch.
2. Cut two pieces of cardboard a little bigger than the notebooking pages and hole punch.
3. Tie the front cover, notebooking pages and back cover together with the string or paracord. DO NOT tie the string tight to the pages. You will rip the pages when you turn them. You should tie it very loose so that you can easily insert two fingers into the loop.
4. Add a small bead of glue to the knot on the string so it doesn't come loose over time.
5. Have your child design a front cover with a title, picture and their name and date. My son chose the title "My Hunting Book".



Begin Learning

Have your child begin working through the notebooking pages and read the Parent read aloud books. Chose a schedule that works for your family by moving through each lesson as fast or as slow as you need.

Lesson 1: Small Game Animal Reports

Look on your local hunting regulation website or in the regulation booklet to find information about small game animals. Have your student chose 3 animals to do a report about. Fill out the three worksheets in their hunting book. I was able to print out this information from Washington states website and gave it to my son for independent work. It had all the information we needed.

Read a chapter or two from one, or both, of the Parent Read aloud books.

ANSWER KEY

Below is a list of small game animals to choose from. I found this list on www.wdfw.wa.gov , click the *Hunting* tab then click on *Small Game & Trapping*. Scroll down then click on the animal name you wish to do the report about. It will give you a fact sheet and even a pdf printable form. You could print it out for your child to read and copy facts for his/her report. I also recommend using the search box for more information.

Here is a list of Washington Small Game Species to research

bobcat

coyote

fox

raccoon

cotton tail & snowshoe hare

red fox

opossum

rat

skunk

tree squirrel

rabbit

Lesson 2: Big Game Animal Report

Look on your local hunting regulation website or in the regulation booklet to find information about big game animals. Have your student chose 3 animals to do a report about. Fill out the three worksheets in their hunting book.

Read a chapter or two from one, or both, of the Parent Read aloud books.

ANSWER KEY

Here is a list of Big Game Species to research

elk

deer

bear

cougar

goat

sheep

moose

Lesson 3: Animals That Are Illegal to Hunt

Do some research on the regulation website or in the Regulation booklet about animals that are illegal to hunt. Have your student write out as many animals as he/she can find in each category.

Read a chapter or two from one, or both, of the Parent Read aloud books.

ANSWER KEY

Here is a list of animals to research that are illegal to hunt, protected, have a closed hunting status, cannot be hunted or have strict restrictions.

SMALL GAME

pygmy rabbit

jack rabbit

beaver

marten

badger

weasels
muskrat
mink
river otter
lynx

BIG GAME

moose (a hunter may apply for a once-in-a-lifetime-license)
pronghorn antelopes
grizzly

BIRDS

crows (can only be hunted with a license for depredation)
bat (mammal)
robins
owls
swallows

Lesson 4: Hunting Field Trip & Activities

Throughout this unit study you will find 4 worksheets that prompt you and your child to go have some fun with a hunting field trip. In the back of this book you will find a list of ideas under Hunting Field Trip to choose from. Find one you can do together. Be sure to take pictures, write notes, or collect some leaves, then scrapbook about it by gluing pictures or leaves on their worksheet and tell a story about what you did. If you went target shooting, then save your target paper and glue it here. If you go scouting, then take some pictures of any animal tracks you find then print them out to glue here or collect some leave specimen and glue to this paper.

Read a chapter or two from one, or both, of the Parent Read aloud books.

ANSWER KEY

Answers will vary for this journaling project.

Lesson 5: Read Deer Hunting for Kids by Matt Chandler

Have your student read each chapter, then complete the worksheets. Each chapter has one comprehension question and vocabulary words. Your student will need access to a dictionary for some of the vocabulary words. Most of them are found in the book but not all. Have them practice spelling the words for a spelling test.

Read a chapter or two from one, or both, of the Parent Read aloud books.

ANSWER KEY

Read Chapter 1

List the 3 types of deer most commonly hunted in North America.

whitetail, elk, mule deer

Vocabulary: Write out the definition.

buck- **a male deer older than 1 year**

venison- **the meat of a deer or similar animal that is used for food**

rebound- **to spring back from force of impact or to cause to bound back**

Read Chapter 2

List the two most popular types of shotguns for deer hunting.

20-gauge

12-guage

Look up a picture of them on the internet and print them out and glue below or draw a picture.

Vocabulary: Write out the definition.

recoil- **the kickback of a gun when firing**

magnify- **to make something look larger than it really is**

draw weight- **a measurement of how much strength it takes to pull a bowstring back**

Read Chapter 3

What should you look for when you are tracking an animal?

Look for their tracks or foot prints, antler rubs, and scat or poo.

Vocabulary: Write out the definition.

scouting- **to make a search, looking for an area to hunt**

marksman- **a person skilled at aiming and shooting guns**

Read Chapter 4

List the 3 ways to be safe while hunting?

Answers Will Vary

tell someone where and how long you will be out

pack a survival kit

wear blaze orange vests or jackets

never carry your gun or bow into a deer stand, use a rope to pull it up

use a safety harness in tree stand

be aware of your surroundings

keep gun pointed in safe direction

keep your gun's safety on until ready to fire

keep arrows in a quiver until ready to use them

Vocabulary: Write out the definition.

safety- **a device that prevents a gun from firing**

quiver- **a container for arrows**

Read Chapter 5

List two ways to be a responsible hunter.

Answers Will Vary

leave hunting area in its natural condition

pick up shell casings and litter

avoid damaging the environment

obey laws and limits

Vocabulary: Write out the definition.

conservation- **the protection of animals and plants, as well as the wise use of what we get from nature**

habitat- **the natural place and conditions in which an animal or plant lives**

Spelling

Practice spelling all the vocabulary words from this book. Then have your parent give you a spelling test on the back of this paper.

Give your Student a spelling test.

buck
venison
rebound
recoil
magnify
draw weight
scouting
marksman
safety
quiver
conservation
habitat

Lesson 6: Read Bowhunting for Kids by Melanie Howard

Have your student read each chapter, then complete the worksheets. Each chapter has one comprehension question and vocabulary words. Your student will need access to a dictionary for some of the vocabulary words. Most of them are found in the book but not all. Have them practice spelling the words for a spelling test.

Read a chapter or two from one, or both, of the Parent Read aloud books.

ANSWER KEY

Read Chapter 1

Why do hunters switch from rifle hunting to bowhunting?

Many hunters switch to bowhunting for the added challenge, connection to traditional hunting, and spending more time in nature

Vocabulary: Write out the definition.

bowhunting- **the sport of hunting with a bow and arrows**

American- **a citizen of the United States of America**

trophy- **a trophy is something that you keep in order to show that you have done something very difficult**

Read Chapter 2

Do the "Taking Aim" activity. What eye is your aiming eye?

Vocabulary: Write out the definition.

archery- **the sport of shooting at targets with a bow and arrow**

draw- **to pull back**

sinew- **a strong piece of body tissue that connects muscle to bone**

arrow rest- **a device that helps hold an arrow in place when shooting a bow**

Read Chapter 3

What is glassing? **Glassing is hunting using a scope or binoculars**

Vocabulary: Write out the definition.

camouflage- **coloring or covering that makes animals, people, and objects look like their surroundings**

sporting- **in line with the ideas or rules chosen as the fair way to perform a sport**

Read Chapter 4

List 2 ways to be safe while bowhunting?

Answers Will Vary

wear blaze orange

lane is clear of people

store arrows in quiver

store bow unstrung, be careful when stringing it

bow is in good condition, string not frayed

wear protective gear like gloves and arm guard

bring first aid kit and survival kit

Vocabulary: Write out the definition.

dangerous- **if something is dangerous, it is able or likely to hurt or harm you**

frayed- **the threads or fibers start to come apart**

Spelling

Practice spelling all the vocabulary words from this book. Then have your parent give you a spelling test on the back of this paper.

Give your Student a spelling test.

bowhunting
American
trophy
archery
draw
sinew
arrow rest
camouflage
sporting
dangerous
frayed

Lesson 7: Read Turkey Hunting for Kids by Tyler Omoth

Have your student read each chapter, then complete the worksheets. Each chapter has one comprehension question and vocabulary words. Your student will need access to a dictionary for some of the vocabulary words. Most of them are found in the book but not all. Have them practice spelling the words for a spelling test.

Read a chapter or two from one, or both, of the Parent Read aloud books.

ANSWER KEY

Read Chapter 1

List a subspecies of wild turkey that is near your state.

Answers Will Vary

Eastern Turkey

Rio Grande Turkey

Merriam's Turkey

Osceola Turkey

Gould's Turkey

Vocabulary: Write out the definition.

gobbler- **an adult male turkey**

species- **a group of plants or animals that share common characteristics**

Read Chapter 2

What are the best shot sizes for turkey hunting?

The best shot sizes for turkey hunting are 4,5, and 6.

Vocabulary: Write out the definition.

ammunition- **bullets that are made to be fired from weapons**

friction- **a force produced when two objects rub together**

Read Chapter 3

List 2 techniques to turkey hunting.

Answers Will Vary

startle the flock by running and yelling at them

hunt near dusting holes, water and food sources

when hunting with firearm aim for the head

when hunting with bow aim for the vital organs below the wing

Vocabulary: Write out the definition.

dominant- **the most powerful or important**

organ- **a part of the body that does a certain job; the heart, lungs, and kidneys are organs**

Read Chapter 4

Why is there a safety rule about wearing red, white, or blue colors when you're hunting turkey?

These colors can be mistaken for a gobbler's head

Vocabulary: Write out the definition.

precautions- **a precaution is an action that is intended to prevent something dangerous or unpleasant from happening**

waterproof- **does not let water pass through it**

Read Chapter 5

List 2 ways to be a responsible hunter.

Answers Will Vary

only shoot birds that are allowed by their license

follow hunting laws

wait for a good shot and take the bird cleanly

Vocabulary: Write out the definition.

license- an official document which gives you permission to do, use, or own something

population- all the people or animals who live in an area

Spelling

Practice spelling all the vocabulary words from this book. Then have your parent give you a spelling test on the back of this paper.

Give your Student a spelling test.

gobbler
species
ammunition
friction
dominant
organ
precautions
waterproof
license
population

Lesson 8: Hunting Field Trip & Activities

Throughout this unit study you will find 4 worksheets that prompt you and your child to go have some fun with a hunting field trip. In the back of this book you will find a list of ideas under Hunting Field Trip to choose from. Find one you can do together. Be sure to take pictures, write notes, or collect some leaves, then scrapbook about it by gluing pictures or leaves on their worksheet and tell a story about what you

did. If you went target shooting, then save your target paper and glue it here. If you go scouting, then take some

pictures of any animal tracks you find then print them out to glue here or collect some leave specimen and glue to this paper.

Read a chapter or two from one, or both, of the Parent Read aloud books.

ANSWER KEY

Answers will vary for this journaling project.

Lesson 9: Hunters Code of Conduct

Write out the Hunters Code of Conduct. You can look in your hunting regulation booklet or look it up online. Tell your student use their best handwriting.

Read a chapter or two from one, or both, of the Parent Read aloud books.

ANSWER KEY

Hunters Code of Conduct from <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/conduct/>

I suggest having your student copy the bold titles since it's so long or create your own shortened version. Help your student memorize it.

Respect the Environment & Wildlife

- Show respect for the wildlife you hunt by taking only clean, killing shots, then retrieving and properly handling your game. Take only what you will use, even if it is under the legal limit.
- Learn to tread lightly while afield. Use vehicles only on established roads and trails, practice low-impact camping and travel, and pack out your trash, including cigarette butts and spent shell casings.
- Report illegal activities immediately.

Respect Property & Landowners

- Always get permission to hunt on private land.
- Close any gates you open, and never damage crops or property, including fences, outbuildings or livestock.
- Alert landowners or land managers about any problems you find on their property.
- Share your game with the landowner, or say thank you in some other way.

Show Consideration of Non-Hunters

- Remember that the future of hunting depends on hunters and non-hunters alike. Be considerate of non-hunters' sensibilities, and strive to leave them with positive images of hunting and hunters.
- Don't flaunt your kill. Treat game carcasses in an inoffensive manner particularly during transport.
- Be considerate of all outdoor users, including other hunters.

Hunt Safely

- Exercise caution at all times.
- Fire your gun or bow only when you are absolutely sure of your target and its background. Use binoculars, not your rifle scope, to identify your target.
- Wear hunter orange whenever appropriate or required while afield.

Remember that hunting and alcohol don't mix.

Know and Obey the Law

- Obtain proper tags and licenses.
- Hunt only in allowed areas and during designated times and seasons.
- Obey bag and possession limits.
- Use only legal hunting methods and equipment.

Support Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

- Provide hands-on and financial support for conservation of game and non-game species and their habitats.
- Learn more about wildlife and habitat issues, and urge policymakers to support strong conservation initiatives.
- Become involved in wildlife conservation organizations and their programs.
- Purchase state and federal wildlife conservation stamps, even if such stamps are not required for hunting.

Pass on an Ethical Hunting Tradition

- Invite a young person or a non-hunter next time you go afield to scout or hunt.
- Attend a hunter education course, and urge others to do the same.
- Set high ethical standards for future generations of hunters to help ensure hunting will continue.

Strive to Improve Outdoor Skills & Understanding of Wildlife

- Know the limitations of your skills and equipment, and hunt within those limits.
- Improve your outdoor skills to become more observant, a better hunter, and a better teacher. Sight-in your firearm and bow, and practice shooting to ensure a clean kill in the field.

- Learn more about the habits and habitats of game and non-game wildlife and their management needs.

Hunt Only with Ethical Hunters

- Take pride in being an ethical hunter.
- Insist that your hunting partners behave in a responsible, ethical manner. Compete only with yourself.

Lesson 10: Hunting Weapons Art Project

Do some research online or in a book about hunting weapons. Have your student draw and color a picture of a hunting weapon they would like to own someday. Tell them to write out the name.

Read a chapter or two from one, or both, of the Parent Read aloud books.

ANSWER KEY

Answers will vary for this art project. Your student could draw several weapons, draw a picture of them holding a weapon, trace a photo of a weapon with tracing paper, or cut out the shape of the weapon using cardboard then paint it and glue onto their paper.

Lesson 11: Using Your State's Hunting Regulations Book

Have your student think of an animal he/she wishes to hunt someday. Then help them use the regulation booklet to find out information and laws regarding the animal they choose. Answer each question.

Read a chapter or two from one, or both, of the Parent Read aloud books.

ANSWER KEY

Answers will vary for this research project.

Lesson 12: Hunting Field Trip & Activities

Throughout this unit study you will find 4 worksheets that prompt you and your child to go have some fun with a hunting field trip. In the

back of this book you will find a list of ideas under Hunting Field Trip to choose from. Find one you can do together. Be sure to take pictures, write notes, or collect some leaves, then scrapbook about it by gluing pictures or leaves on their worksheet and tell a story about what you did. If you went target shooting, then save your target paper and glue it here. If you go scouting, then take some pictures of any animal tracks you find then print them out to glue here or collect some leave specimen and glue to this paper.

Read a chapter or two from one, or both, of the Parent Read aloud books.

ANSWER KEY

Answers will vary for this journaling project.

Lesson 13: Family Hunting Stories

Interview a family member or friend who has hunted before. Have him/her tell you their best hunting story. Then test your child's memory by having them write out as many details as they can remember about the story and draw a picture. Be sure they use their best hand writing and correct punctuation. Edit their story when they finish looking for any mistakes in grammar and have them make any corrections. If you wish, they could write a rough draft on a separate piece of paper first.

Read a chapter or two from one, or both, of the Parent Read aloud books.

ANSWER KEY

Answers will vary for this writing project.

Lesson 14: Facts About Hunting Birds

Have your student do some research in your hunting regulation booklet about bird hunting. Write out some facts learned. Draw a picture of the bird.

Read a chapter or two from one, or both, of the Parent Read aloud books.

ANSWER KEY

Answers will vary for this research project.

Lesson 15: Read The Deer Hunting Book by Michael Waguespack

Copywork is a great method for learning good handwriting skills, sentence structure and grammar. Have your student copy their favorite story from this book and the title. They do not need to copy the whole thing, just copy as much as they can fit on the lines. Be sure they use their very best handwriting and copy word-for-word, including the correct punctuation and capitalizations.

Read a chapter or two from one, or both, of the Parent Read aloud books.

ANSWER KEY

Answers will vary for this copywork project.

Lesson 16: Hunting Field Trip & Activities

Throughout this unit study you will find 4 worksheets that prompt you and your child to go have some fun with a hunting field trip. In the back of this book you will find a list of ideas under Hunting Field Trip to choose from. Find one you can do together. Be sure to take pictures, write notes, or collect some leaves, then scrapbook about it by gluing pictures or leaves on their worksheet and tell a story about what you did. If you went target shooting, then save your target paper and glue it here. If you go scouting, then take some pictures of any animal tracks you find then print them out to glue here or collect some leave specimen and glue to this paper.

Read a chapter or two from one, or both, of the Parent Read aloud books.

ANSWER KEY

Answers will vary for this journaling project.

Hunting Field Trip

(You, the parent, are responsible to be sure that you and your child are following safety rules and hunting/shooting laws.)

- ❖ Practice shooting. A BB gun is a great beginner to practice with. I delegate the shooting stuff to my husband. If you do not know how to shoot I recommend finding someone who does or contact a shooting range. Find an archery class for youth. Many 4-H clubs offer these classes. Draw a bullseye target on a piece of paper with a permanent marker or use a piece of recycled cardboard box for target practice.
- ❖ Visit a local taxidermy shop. Call ahead and see if the owner would be willing to show your student the process.
- ❖ Go scouting. Pick up a local hunting regulation book. Find a location you wish to go scouting in. Get your binoculars and map and go explore. Keep a log of animals and tracks you notice. Have your child take pictures or bring a field guide and try to identify the tracks or scat you see.
- ❖ Go browsing at a sportsman's store and look at hunting equipment. Have your child make a wish list of items he would want for hunting and how much it costs. Tell him/her to add up the total. While you are there it would be a good idea to look at hunting guns and bows. Have an employee show your child the various hunting gun options and the bullets that go with them. If your child ever decides to take hunters safety course they will need to know this information. It's a good idea to get them familiar with the guns and bows, to know what they look like, and how to identify the bullets that go with them.
- ❖ Learn knife safety and then let your child practice carving a stick. Roast some marshmallows with it or make a walking stick.
- ❖ Go hunting.
- ❖ Learn trapping rules then try and trap an animal.
- ❖ Go on a fake hunt by hiding stuffed animals in a wooded area or in your house and let your child "hunt" them.
- ❖ Learn survival skills.
- ❖ Make a hunting survival kit.

If your child is old enough, sign him/her up for a hunter's safety course after they finish this unit study.