Illustrations by Joe Kulka

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Dear Parents, Teachers, Librarians, and Youth Leaders:

This book is meant for you to read to young children. I hope it guides you in increasing your children’s awareness of the world around them.

Each page offers a letter, word, rhyming verse, and action prompt. You may choose to read all or parts of each page.

As your children become familiar with the letters, words, and pictures, there are many related concepts for them to discover.

For ideas on how you can expand on the information in this book, please visit me on the World Wide Web at www.woodsycwl.gov.

Together we can “Lend a hand, care for the land.”

Have fun!

Your friend,

Woodsy

Woodsy Owl

P.S. This book shows many different kinds of wildlife. In nature, however, you may not see so many kinds of wildlife at once.
Look! There’s Woodsy Owl by the tree. Open your eyes, and you will see his alphabet from A to Z.
A is for air.

Air is there, but no one sees the gift you get from plants and trees.

Take in a breath of air and blow it out.
B is for breezes. Bb

Breezes are air blowing by . . . whirling, swirling in the sky.

Pretend you are blowing out candles.
C is for clouds.

Clouds that ride so high on breezes drop rain—or snow, when it freezes.

Pretend you are opening your umbrella.
D is for drinking water. Dd

Drinking water fills up your cup.
You drink it down, plants drink it up.

Pretend you are drinking cold water.
E is for energy.

Energy shines down from the sun, warming the Earth for every one.

Pretend you are putting on sunglasses.
F is for food.

Food you need to live and grow comes from green plants in a row.

Say “yum” and rub your tummy.
G is for good places.

Good places to live are all around—on land, in water, and under ground.

Pretend to swim like a fish.
H is for home. **Hh**

Home has a roof for you and for me. For animals, home can be a tree.

*Touch your hands together to make a roof.*
I is for insects.

Insects have a lot to do; they may stop to visit you!

Buzz like a bee.
J is for jumping.

Jumping is how some animals go.
Pop! They're gone before you know.

Jump up like a frog, and then sit down.
Kk

K is for kids.

Kids are like other living things, but you don’t have fins, fur, or wings.

Point to yourself.
L is for living things.

Living things all need to share water, food, land, and air.

Point to another living thing.
M is for morning.

Morning starts the day just right for animals that sleep at night.

Rub your eyes and stretch.
N is for night.  

Night is the time to work and play for animals that sleep all day.

Rest your sleepy head on your hands.
Oo

O is for outside.
Outside is where wild things belong.
Taking them home with you is wrong.

Pretend to take a picture of something wild.
P is for plant. Pp

Plant a seed, flower, or tree.
Water it, and wait and see.

Pretend you are watering your plant.
Q is for questions.

Questions and answers can come from a book, or from you when you stop, listen, and look.

Open your eyes big and wide.
R is for recycling.
Recycling makes old things like new.
Nature recycles; so can you.

Show how you recycle a can.
S is for saving.

Saving water is the best way
to leave some for another day.

Show how you shut off the water faucet.
T is for take care of it.

Take care of where you are today, where you live, and where you play.

Push up your sleeves and get ready to help.
Uu

U is for up.

Up so high where the view is fine,
we see the land that's yours and mine.

Flap your arms like a bird.
V is for valley. Vv

Valley and mountain and river and plain are nice to visit again and again.

Look through “finger” binoculars.
W is for wetlands.

Wetlands are good spots to study.
Watch your step! It’s wet and muddy.

Pretend to put on your boots.
X is for xeric (zir-ik).

Xeric is the opposite of wet.
A little water is all you get.

Pretend you are hot and thirsty.
Yy

Y is for you.

You now know Woodsy’s alphabet and how to help him. Don’t forget!

Lend a hand, care for the land!

Say “Lend a hand, care for the land.”
Z is for zoom. Zoom! The letters went so fast. Zip! This letter is the last.

Pretend to draw a “Z” in the sand.
Remember what we read today. No matter where you live and play, you can help Woodsy every day.
Can you find these plants and animals in this book?

- eastern swallowtail butterfly
- buttercups
- bald eagle
- sockeye salmon
- moose
- long-tailed weasel
- brown bear
- chick and earthworm
- cattails
- spotted turtle
blue morning glories
ruby-throated hummingbird
red fox
painted turtle
large-mouthed bass
great blue heron
white-tailed deer
big brown bat
striped skunk
frog
raccoon
green anole
nine-banded armadillos
greater flamingos
Look for new plants and animals when you play. Just remember that outside is where they stay.
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