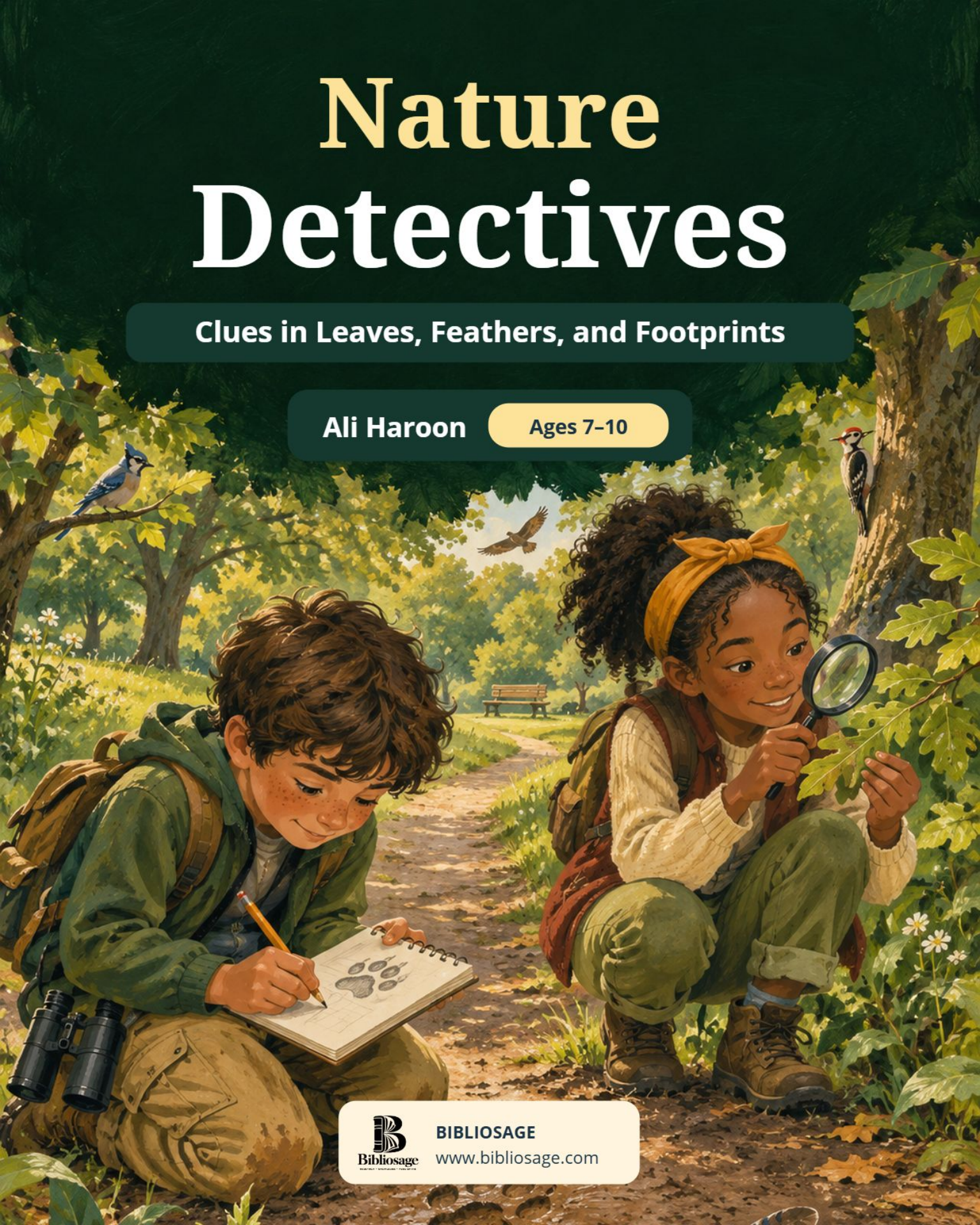
Nature Detectives

Clues in Leaves, Feathers, and Footprints

Ali Haroon

Ages 7–10



BIBLIOSAGE
www.bibliosage.com

Nature Detectives

Clues in Leaves, Feathers, and Footprints

Ali Haroon

Ages 7–10



Look closely. Keep notes. Follow the evidence.

BIBLIOSAGE
www.bibliosage.com

Publication Details

Copyright © 2026 Bibliosage. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored, or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior written permission from Bibliosage, except as permitted by law.

Written by Ali Haroon

Published by Bibliosage



BIBLIOSAGE
www.bibliosage.com

START HERE

Your First Case

Mina spots a leaf with a row of tiny teeth. Theo notices marks in the mud. They open a notebook. Each clue gives them a question to ask.

You can start with a pencil and this book. Look from a window, sit in a garden, or walk along a familiar path with an adult.



Where will I look for my first clue?

Look, Record, Wonder

Look. Pause long enough to see one detail, such as the edge of a leaf or the shape of a print.

Record. Write the date and place. Draw the clue. Add a size estimate or note how you measured it.

Wonder. Ask what could explain the clue. Think of another possibility before deciding.

I noticed ...

Now I wonder ...

Leave Clues Where They Are

Stay on permitted paths. Leave feathers, nests, plants, and other finds where they are. Sketch them or ask an adult to help you take a photo.

Watch animals from far enough away that they keep doing what they were doing. If one moves away because of you, give it more space.



What can I bring home from a nature walk without taking the clue itself?

Notice or Guess?

An observation tells what you saw, heard, or measured. A guess is one possible explanation.

Read each sentence. Write O for an observation or G for a guess.

Sentence	O or G?
I can see three marks in the mud.	
A small animal might have left the marks.	
The marks are about as wide as my finger.	
The animal was probably looking for food.	

Which statement would you want more evidence for?

Follow the Leaf Edge

Mina finds one leaf with a smooth edge and one with tiny points along the edge. An edge with many little points is called toothed.

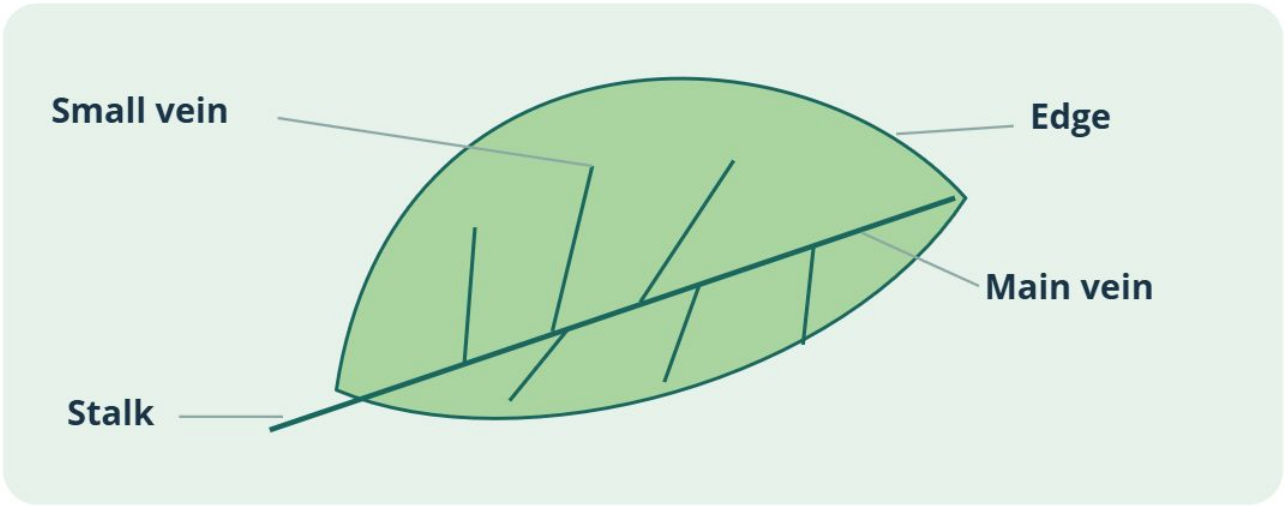
You can compare the edges before you know the names of the plants.



Describe the edge of a leaf you can see.

Map a Leaf

The edge is the outside border. The main vein often runs down the middle. Smaller veins branch away from it. The stalk joins the leaf blade to the plant.



Trace one small vein in the drawing with your finger. Where does it meet a larger vein?

Compare Two Leaves

Study two leaves where they are. If a leaf is high up, choose a different one you can see clearly. Keep the leaf attached if it is growing.

Clue	Leaf A	Leaf B
Edge shape		
Overall shape		
Vein pattern		
Color or size		

Which detail makes the leaves easiest to tell apart?

END OF FREE SAMPLE

Nature Detectives: Clues in Leaves, Feathers, and Footprints

Enjoyed the sample? Continue reading.

Get the full ebook at
bibliosage.com