Happy Kansas Day! Each year on January 29, Kansans celebrate the state’s anniversary of its 1861 admission to the Union. Spend some time outside celebrating Kansas Day this year (just be sure to dress warmly). Use this eye-spy activity guide to explore the outdoor spaces around you!

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- In Kansas, bald eagles lay eggs in late January through early April and chicks hatch in March through May. Take a walk along the Kaw River or head to Clinton Lake to see bald eagles nesting, catching fish, and soaring high in the sky!
  - Take it one step further: Document your avian observations for science! Submit your pictures to the museum’s iNaturalist citizen science project at https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/kunhm-bird-blitz

- In 1903, the Kansas Legislature designated the sunflower as the official state flower. There are 52 different species of sunflower in the United States and Mexico. On your next neighborhood walk, see if you can spot artistic representations of sunflowers – in yard art, murals, or decorations!

- Barred owls are common in the eastern half of Kansas. Listen carefully at dusk and you might just hear their distinctive hooting call that sounds almost like “Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?”
Little bluestem is a native grass that was recognized as the official state grass in 2010. This species of grass grows in every county in the state! *It is frequently used in landscaping areas. See if you can find some little bluestem on your next walk!*

The state rock is limestone. Most of the limestone in eastern Kansas dates back to the Carboniferous Period, about 315 million years ago, and contains invertebrate fossils like horn corals and bryozoans. *While out on a walk, check out the rocks used in landscaping and on older buildings – you might even find some cool fossils!*

Kansas’ official state tree is the cottonwood. During wintertime, it can be hard to identify deciduous trees, but cottonwoods have very rough bark on the trunk and large branches. Cottonwood bark has deep vertical furrows, with an ash gray color. *These trees prefer to grow along lakes and rivers. See if you can find a cottonwood tree on your next outdoor exploration!*

In 1986, the Kansas Legislature designated the ornate box turtle as the state reptile. The ornate box turtle is easily identified by its yellow striped shell. These turtles hibernate underground during the wintertime in burrows, with each turtle in its own burrow. *Although you won’t see one out & about during wintertime, keep your eyes peeled in early spring when the turtles emerge from hibernation!*