

Zoom In

Get in touch with nature during this observational art activity!



Background

Why is it important to observe? Observing is when we notice something and register it as being significant. Observations made in nature are incredible because even on a small scale, everything that you see has a place and a purpose in its ecosystem.

Materials

Pencil/writing utensils/art materials

Paper

Hand lens (optional)

Nature subject

Activity

1. Head to your backyard or another greenspace and pick out a nature subject. This can be anything you see - a tree, a patch of grass, flowers, an insect.
2. Fold your paper into fourths.
3. In the first quadrant, draw your nature subject from 6 feet away. Include what is around it and try to capture the subject and its surroundings fully.
4. For the next, draw your nature subject from 3 feet away, once again drawing all that you see.
5. On the 3rd, examine your nature subject from 1 foot away. Are you noticing more with each drawing? How is your subject changing?
6. Once done, it's time to focus on the last quadrant. Focus on your nature subject and draw it from 1 inch away. Be sure to add as much detail as possible - lines, spots, markings, and more! A hand lens would help you get even more detailed.
7. After completing both sides, follow along with the guiding questions and evaluate your observations!

Guiding Questions

1. What are things in our daily life that we constantly observe from afar? What things require a closer look?
2. What changes in nature did you notice as you worked on your observational art? How would different seasons change what your nature subject was?
3. Why do you think it is important to appreciate even the little things in nature, like a blade of grass or a single bee?
4. What ways does nature influence art?
5. How can observing things up close help us learn?