

Nature Observations

Just like you, scientists ask questions and make observations about the world around them. Use your science journal to practice these scientific skills!

Location: Indoors or outdoors at your home

What You'll Do

During this investigation, you will set up a science journal and use it to record observations about a nature object.

You will learn to...

- Use a science journal to record your observations and initial ideas.
- Share your ideas and observations with others.

What You'll Need

- A science journal.** This can be a notebook, a notepad, a document on a tablet or phone, or even paper folded together!
- Something to write with.** Markers, crayons, or colored pencils are optional.
- A nature object.** You might choose a leaf, a house plant, an interesting rock, a fruit or vegetable from the kitchen or garden, something carved out of wood, or whatever you'd like!

Directions

1. Visit Crystal Cove Conservancy's website to watch Kaitlin introduce the task: crystalcove.org/nature-observations
2. Find a nature object and get comfortable.
3. Open up a blank page in your science journal. Write the date and location on the top of the page.
4. Use your senses to observe your object closely. Think about how it feels, looks, smells, and sounds.
5. Draw a picture of your object.
6. Write at least 3 sentences with our sentence starters:
 - I notice...
 - I wonder...
 - It reminds me of...
7. Once you're done, share your drawing and observations with a family member, friend, or classmate!

Questions to ask while you're sharing:

- Why did you choose your object?
- What words would you use to describe your object? (Interesting, beautiful, ugly, exciting, curious...)
- What did you notice about it? What did you wonder? Did it remind you of anything that you've seen before?

Want to do more?

- Find another nature-based object to observe. If you feel comfortable with making observations, try observing something that moves, like a cloud, a bird, or an animal!
- Share this activity with a friend or family member who lives in a different place than you. After you've both made an entry in your science journal, send a letter or make a phone call and share your observations about your chosen nature object.

Share your science journal with us on social media! Post a photo of your observations on Facebook or Instagram using the hashtag #crystalcovescience!