

Making Observations

Just like you, scientists are curious about the world around them! You can use your science journal to record observations to answer your questions.

Location: In your home or community

Length of Time: 30 minutes or longer

What You'll Do

During this investigation, you'll use your science journal to come up with a question and plan an investigation. Then, you'll find somewhere quiet to make observations and answer your question.

You will learn to...

- Ask a testable question.
- Plan an investigation.
- Design a data form to record your observations.

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.
- Somewhere quiet** to sit or watch.

Directions

1. Visit Crystal Cove Conservancy's website to watch Erick introduce the task: crystalcove.org/making-observations
2. Decide where you want to go to make your observations. If you can't find a quiet place in or near your home, you can also watch a nature livecam online!
3. In your science journal, write down three things that you wonder about your chosen place.
4. Choose one of your "I wonder..." sentences. Write a question based on that wondering.
You might ask...
 - If I compare observations at [time of day] and [another time of day], how many _____ do I see?
 - If I make observations at [time of day], what type of activity are [animals] doing the most?
5. Plan your investigation! Decide when you'll go to make observations, how long you'll sit, and how you'll set up a chart in your science journal to record what you observe
6. When you're ready, visit your place to make your observations!

Questions to think about afterwards:

- What was the answer to your question? Why do you think this was true?
- Are there any new questions you have now?

Want to do more?

- Design a chart or graph that displays what you observed.
- Share your findings with a family member, a friend, or someone else!

With your parents' permission, share a photo of your observations with us on social media! Post a photo on Facebook or Instagram using the hashtag #crystalcovescience!