



Ideas for Inspiration

MAKING OBSERVATIONS IN THE FIELD

As you explore your backyard, neighborhood and local trails, use these ideas to help you focus on making specific, scientific observations.



1. Look for signs that animals were present. Whose tracks are those? Whose scat is that?

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5. There are many types of birds in your neighborhood. Their beaks are a hint about the type of food they eat.

Draw them. What do you think each type of beak is good for?

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2. Notice how rock type changes from location to location. Make notes on the different types, colors or textures.

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6. Flowers have different colors, shapes and scents to attract different pollinators. Observe closely.

Describe a flower's color and shape and which pollinator you see there.

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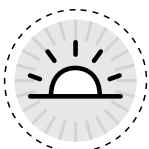
3. Trees are grouped as conifers (with cones and needles) or deciduous (with leaves). Make drawings

or leaf rubbings of the different types in your neighborhood. Use field guides or websites to identify them.



6. Invertebrates, like insects and spiders, are the most common animal in the world (more than all the mammals and birds).

Look closely and see how many types you can find. Draw one.



4. At this time of year the days are getting longer. The sun rises earlier and sets later each day. Keep track of this and see how many minutes of daylight you gain each week!



8. Go outside on a clear night. How many constellations do you know? Using a star chart or an app, see if you can learn a new one.