



Open-Sky
School

Category
SCIENCE



Activity

Are There Any Changes?

MATERIALS

- Paper and pencils
- Observation tables and clipboards for each team

DURATION

4 SESSIONS, 30 MINUTES EACH

Activity Summary

Students will visit a park once a week for four consecutive weeks. They will observe natural phenomena. Students will learn that scientific observation is not just about looking. It is in fact a question of making systematic observations using all of their senses. Students will record their observations during each visit by writing, drawing, and/or through photography.

Preparation

Form teams of 4 to 6 students.
Obtain all necessary equipment to make the systematic observation tables.



Let's observe outside

D. Upon arrival at the park, tell students:
Take note of at least one thing you see, a sound you hear, a scent you smell, a texture you feel.

- Ask each team to take a few photos of their area from different angles.

Why is it useful to take these photos? You can use a magnifying glass or tape measure during this observation activity. Why do we use a magnifying glass, a tape measure, and/or a camera during observation activities?

E. **Observation report**
Students team up to share their recorded observations. Each team can complete a summary table of the common observations made by each team (i.e., date and time of the observation session as well as a list of observations grouped by each of the senses).



RETURN
TO GROUP

- What were the similarities and differences observed by each team?
- Why is it useful to note the time of your observation?
- What did you discover through this observation activity?
- What can you do to improve your observation skills?
- Can you foresee any changes during next week's observation outing?

Ask each team to make a list of their predictions of any changes they may observe.

REINVESTMENT:

At the end of the four weeks, create one table of all common observations made at the park. Do students' observations vary from one team to another?

Suggest that students do this activity at home or in a different environment.

Do this type of activity at different times of the school year.

Adapted from:
Des Sciences Dehors. (N.D.)
La chasse aux changements
(Primaire). <https://www.sciencesdehors.com/activites2-1/la-chasse-aux-changements-%28primaire%29>