

The 6 minute observation of the Great Outdoors

Before you begin, read all of the directions. Consider what you will be writing. Plan how you will organize what you are recording in this activity. Entries should be neat and have headings that describe what they are. Your data must make sense to anyone who picks up your journal without explanation.

1. You will need your LAB JOURNAL for this activity. It will need to go home with you.
2. Go outside somewhere (house, school, whatever).
3. Spend exactly 1 minute looking at whatever "nature" you can find around you. At the end of that minute, describe in no less than 5 sentences what you are surrounded by and what is happening.
4. Once you have done that, spend 5 minutes quietly observing the same surroundings. As you observe, list objects or activities in your journal that you did not notice before. Not things you saw but didn't think to mention, I mean things you were totally unaware of. These are not sentences, just quick words.
5. Once you have made your list, consider everything you saw. Find something that you find curious, confusing, interesting or at the very least unknown.
6. Take that thing and come up with a scientifically testable question / problem statement that you would like to be able to answer (If you can't find **anything** after 5 minutes you are either *omniscient* or *really dense*. Included everything you THINK is supposed to be mentioned. DO NOT look up how to write this! Yes, there is a standard phrasing, depth and content to one of these but I want your personal version of a scientifically testable question / problem statement. Bring your journal with that question to class tomorrow. (It will be read by others so make it legible.)