Discover Your Habitat

Let’s discover the world around you, or your own habitat, by making observations. Explore a local park, your neighborhood, or your backyard and use these activities as a guide to discovery. You don’t need to have all of the answers to learn new things!

Materials:
- A pencil
- Print or copy the activities on a piece of paper: Wildlife Observation, Outdoor Scavenger Hunt, Sound Map.

An observation is simply something that we notice by using our senses—touch, smell, taste, sight, or hearing.

You can start your observation by saying “I notice...”
✓ Find **two different types of trees**.

I notice______________________________________________________________.

I wonder____________________________________________________________?

✓ Find a plant that smells.

I notice______________________________________________________________.

I wonder____________________________________________________________?

✓ Find the smoothest rock.

I notice______________________________________________________________.

I wonder____________________________________________________________?

✓ Find a plant you have never noticed before.

I notice______________________________________________________________.

I wonder____________________________________________________________?
Make a record of the sounds in your habitat

1) Sit quietly for 5 minutes and draw or write the sounds you hear.

2) The X marks where you are. Record the sounds in the direction and distance you hear them from your X. For example, if you hear a bird close in front of you, you would draw a bird near the top of the X.

3) You don’t need to know exactly what the sound is, just record it!
What I saw and where I saw it

Date:____________________________________  Time:____________________________________________

Weather:___________________________________ Location:_______________________________________

Description of Animal:_______________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Behavior of Animal:_________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Other Notes:_______________________________________________________________________________

Use this space to draw your animal:
Continue the fun!

Outdoor Scavenger Hunt
Pick one “I wonder” question you wrote down on the scavenger hunt and think of a possible answer.
I think that ____________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
Could you design a study to test your thought?

Sound Map
Compare sound maps. Did a classmate hear something different than you?
What if you did it again at a different time of day? What about again at a different location?

Wildlife Observation
Share your observation with your classmates to create a database of wildlife near your school. Did weather, time of day, or anything else change which animals were seen or their behavior?