

Lesson of the Week!



THE YOUNG SCIENTIST

AN INTRODUCTION TO
Observation & Research




OBSERVATION




People look at things all the time. But there's a difference between just noticing something and looking at it carefully. When you pay close attention to something, when you look at it more thoroughly, you can learn something new. You can discover things you didn't already know.





For example, you might glance at the sky outside and see that it's a sunny day. But when you look more carefully, you might notice tall, dark clouds off in the distance and a funny feeling in the air. You've just discovered a big storm on the way!

When you are interested in something and want to know more about it or understand it better, you can use your observation powers to find out as much as you can about it. This may mean using many different senses.



You might look an object over from all sides. Is it large or tiny? What shape is it? You might notice its different colors. You might even cut into it, break it open, or look at it through a magnifying glass. That might be really interesting!

You might feel it with your hands to see how rough or smooth it is, or put it to your cheek to find out how warm or cool it is. Is it heavy or light? Does it feel like plastic, glass, metal or wood?

You might smell it. That will tell you something about it. Does it have a smell? Is it a strong smell, a pleasant smell, or an unpleasant one? Does it smell like anything else you know?

If it's safe, you could taste it. Is it sweet? Salty? Sour?

If possible, you might listen to it and see what you could learn from that. Have you ever tried to hear the different instruments in a band or orchestra? How about the different songs of birds, or even the sounds of their wings in flight?

There are many ways to observe something when you want to find out as much about it as you can. And that's what scientists do. They observe more closely to find out about things!

Observation is looking at or studying something carefully to find out more about it.

CURIOSITY ADVENTURE



For this activity you will need

- your curiosity
- a piece of paper
- a pencil

Steps

- 1 Look around and find an area that looks interesting to you. It might be indoors or outdoors. Explore it, and let your curiosity lead you on an adventure.
- 2 While you're exploring, notice some things you've never noticed before. At the same time make notes, sketches, drawings, or other things.
- 3 Once you've noticed several things you never noticed before, find another area that looks interesting to you.
- 4 Do the same thing. Explore it, and let your curiosity lead you. Notice some things you've never noticed before and write them down.
- 5 When you're all done, tell someone about your adventures and show them what you wrote.