

At Home Observation

Time: 7-10 minutes

Materials:

- At Home Observation Sheet
- Pencil
- Clipboard
- Markers/Crayons

Instructions:

1. Take a walk in your neighborhood or go outside to your backyard.
2. Look around and see if there is anything interesting (object, animal, or plant).
3. Once you find something interesting, draw it on the observation sheet.
4. Next, describe what you see: is it big, small, medium in size? What colors do you see? Is it pointy or round? What shape is it?
5. After that write what you have learned from your description.
6. Say what you think it is!

Example:

- What I see: The head of it has a couple of points on one side and curved on the bottom of the same side. The curved bottom connects to a long and thin rod on the other side, almost like a handle. It is shiny and silver in color.
- What I've learned from my description:
 - It is shiny → it could be a metal of some sort.
 - Has a couple points on one side → could be used to pick things up with
- What is it?
 - A fork!

Extra Information:

- In the 1700s and 1800s people called natural philosophers (what we call scientists today) investigated the world through experimentation and observation. Scientists in colonial America and the US went to great lengths to gain respect from European scientists.
- When naturalists made drawings they had to be exact in shape and color since photography wasn't regularly used by people to record nature until the 1860s. People had to be both scientists and artists to record observations and discoveries.
- Information gathered by naturalists told us how plants, animals, and organisms lived.

Some information from:

- <https://www.amphilsoc.org/museum/exhibitions/lucy-says-shells/says-creative-process>

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