

Virtual Festival
Follow Up Activity



Nature Journal

Theme: Water Attitude

Curriculum:

- Understanding Earth and Space Systems, Grade 2 (Air and Water in the Environment)
- Understanding Life Systems, Grade 2 (Growth and Changes in Animals)
- Understanding Earth and Space Systems, Grade 3 (Soils in the Environment)
- Understanding Life Systems, Grade 4 (Habitats and Communities)

Activity Overview:

Through active exploration, students become aware of the diversity of species and interactions in the environment and document their observations through a nature journal.

Key Messages:

- By investigating things in our environment such as a puddle, a local creek or under a rock, students can observe and understand the inter-relationships between the flora and fauna in an ecosystem.

Procedure (What Will I Be Doing?):

1. In their schoolyard, home or community, have students explore the nature around them. Nature Journals are an opportunity for multi-modal literacy development. Students can record drawings, qualitative and quantitative observations and their questions in the same place.
2. Have students look in a puddle, go to a nearby creek or water body, turn over logs, rocks etc. and record what they see, hear and smell. Remind students that it is important that the plant and animal life be disturbed as little as possible or not at all. Students could share photos with their class.
3. As a follow-up activity, have students journal about something they saw. Prompts for what they can include in their journal could include:
 - How are the different plants or animals they observed connected?
 - Imagine a day in the life of one of the animals they encountered.
 - What questions do you have that you could investigate further?
4. Once they have started their journal, students can continue using them over several days or weeks to track the gradual changes from one season to another, monitor the progress of a tree in the yard or to describe the impacts of dramatic weather events.

Reflection and Extension:

This Nature Journal can be used as an ongoing tool for schoolyard investigation and observations.