

NATURE OBSERVATION FIELD NOTES

Grades 3-8 • Observe • Question • Sketch • Collect Evidence

YOUR MISSION

Choose a safe place outdoors. Slow down and look closely. Scientists learn about natural systems by observing patterns, asking questions, and collecting evidence. You do not need to know the name of everything you see - careful observation comes first.

FIELD INFORMATION

Date: _____	Time: _____	Location: _____
Weather: _____	Temp: _____	Recent rain? ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ unsure

WHAT'S AROUND YOU?

☐ soil ☐ rocks ☐ bare ground	☐ standing water ☐ flowing water ☐ damp ground	☐ grasses ☐ flowers ☐ shrubs or trees	☐ insects ☐ birds ☐ tracks or other signs
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LOOK CLOSER

COLOR What colors do you notice? _____	TEXTURE Rough, smooth, soft, hard, wet, dry? _____	MOVEMENT What is moving? _____
SOUND What can you hear? _____	PATTERNS Lines, cracks, clusters, layers? _____	CHANGE What suggests change over time? _____

SKETCH SOMETHING THAT CATCHES YOUR ATTENTION

Add labels or arrows to show details another observer might miss.

THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST

I NOTICE...

I WONDER...

What evidence did you find?

What question would you investigate next?

RETURN & REOBSERVE: Visit this place again - after rain, at another time of day, or later in the season. What changed? What stayed the same? Repeated observations can reveal patterns.