



Eye of a Scientist

Prep

This activity will introduce students to the practice of observation, and corresponds to the Wading Through Freshwater lesson plan.

How to

- Tell the class you will be testing their skills of observation. Observing something simply means looking at it very carefully and trying to notice little details.
- First test them by having them close their eyes and try to guess how many windows are in the room without looking (you could also use lights or other objects they see daily). If they don't guess correctly, explain that observational skills can be practiced and that is what scientists do every day!
- Next tell the class you are going to step out of the room (or just have them close their eyes) and you are going to change one thing about your outfit. (ex. Put up your hair, untie your shoes, turn around your name tag...) When you come back in the room, the class will have to use their powers of observation to figure out what is different.
- Pair up the class and have them stand back to back. Tell them they each have ten seconds to change one thing about their outfit, then they will turn and face each other and try to observe what was changed.
- Ask the class to think about how they noticed the difference. Looking closely and carefully at something like they did with this activity is exactly what scientists do! They compare what resources are available in an area over time in what is called a habitat assessment. This careful observation can help scientists notice changes or small details, which allows them to understand how things work (or are not working) and how to fix them! You can practice being a scientist anytime, anywhere by carefully examining the world around you, just like you did today!