

OBSERVE

SENSE & NOTICE

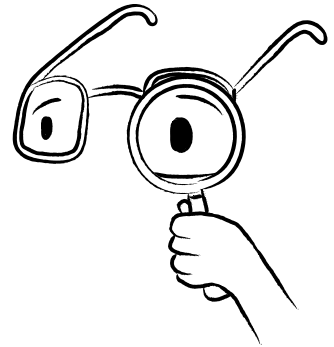
FACILITATOR GUIDE

GRADES: K-5

TIME: 20-30 MIN

Observe: Watch and listen carefully to notice what matters.

Designers observe by looking and listening carefully. This helps them understand how people, places, and things work.



1. GROUNDING

To become good observers, we first learn to focus our attention closely. Before starting the activity, take five minutes to play some relaxing music and ask students to focus on one simple object in front of them. This could be a picture, the clouds, a plant, etc.

You may want to practice this a few times before beginning the rest of the exercise—this skill takes time to develop!

2. PICK A PLACE

As a class, choose a place nearby to observe, such as a hallway, playground, cafeteria, park, or neighborhood street.

3. OBSERVE YOUR ENVIRONMENT AND RECORD YOUR OBSERVATIONS

When we observe our environment closely, we may gain a new perspective or notice things we hadn't seen before. Using the Sense and Notice worksheet, have students take notes or sketch what they notice. Encourage students to use all their senses to explore their environment: see, hear, smell, and touch.

4. REFLECT AND DISCUSS

Discuss the following questions as a class:

- What was something surprising you saw?

- Why do you think it's important to look closely at the world around us?
- What do you want to learn more about?

EXTENSION IDEAS

- Introduce another tool such as crayons, to create texture rubbings.
- Create a class collage of observational drawings.
- Create a class list of key words from observations and categorize them.