



Teachers Notes 1: Day 2

Observation Exercise

Discuss the importance of making careful observations before taking the class outside. Keen observation skills is the basis for excelling at science, art, writing, interpersonal relationships - just about everything!

Play a game with the class to test their powers of observation. Wear something different from normal, such as coloured socks or a button. Before class, colour part of the blackboard with coloured chalk, tape a random word on the wall, put up a map, etc. Pass out this questionnaire and tell students they must not look up from their desks until they are finished.

1. How many windows are there in this classroom?
2. What colour are the teacher's socks?
3. How many plants are there in the classroom?
4. A map of what part of the world is hanging on the wall?
5. What colour hair does the person have sitting in the seat behind you? (if you're in the last row, the teacher in the room next door)
6. What new word is hanging on the wall behind you?
7. What material is the front walk of the school made of?
8. How many different sounds can you hear right now?
9. Are there any animals in the classroom? If so, what?
10. Name the five senses:

Follow up on this concept the day of your field trip by trying a similar exercise just as you approach the boundary of the wetland. Instruct the students to perform a "three-minute notice." Ask them to jot down on a piece of paper what they see, hear, smell, and feel about the wetland they've just entered for a three minute period. Once the three minutes are up, ask each student to describe to the class one or two of their observations.