

occasionally poking above the surface. They are excellent, powerful swimmers and active hunters, agile and wary. They are frequently scavengers, and some species are omnivores. Softshells have

NATURE JOURNALING



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

OBJECTIVES

LEARN HOW SCIENTISTS AND ARTISTS MAKE OBSERVATIONS, COMPARISONS, AS WELL AS DOCUMENT AND COMMUNICATE THEIR FINDINGS BY MAKING AND USING THEIR OWN JOURNAL.

CONCEPTS

- JOURNALS HELP THE USER REMEMBER IMPORTANT DETAILS ABOUT WHAT THEY OBSERVE.
- SKETCHING AND WRITING HELP TO CREATE MULTIPLE MEMORIES OF THE EVENT SO IT IS EASIER TO REMEMBER.
- THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG WAY TO KEEP A NATURE JOURNAL.

FACTS

- JOURNALS HAVE BEEN USED SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.
- ARTISTS AND SCIENTISTS ALIKE USE JOURNALS AS A WAY TO UNDERSTAND THE WORLD AROUND THEM.
- LEONARDO DI VINCI, ALBERT EINSTEIN, MARIE CURIE, AND LEWIS & CLARK ALL KEPT JOURNALS.

MATERIALS

OPTION 1:

SEVERAL SHEETS OF PLAIN WHITE PAPER

1-SHEET OF CARDSTOCK OR CONSTRUCTION PAPER

STAPLER (IF UNAVAILABLE, A HOLE PUNCH AND YARN CAN BE SUBSTITUTED)

OPTION 2:

SEVERAL BROWN PAPER LUNCH BAGS

STAPLER (IF UNAVAILABLE, A HOLE PUNCH AND YARN CAN BE SUBSTITUTED)

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. WHAT IS JOURNALING?
2. WHO USES JOURNALS?
3. WHY USE A JOURNAL?

INTEREST APPROACH-ENGAGEMENT

ASK A QUESTION(S):

- WHAT DO YOU NOTICE? "I NOTICE..."
- WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOUR OBSERVATIONS CREATE? "I WONDER..."
- WHAT DOES THIS REMIND YOU OF? "IT REMINDS ME OF..."



ACTIVITY 1:

MAKING THE JOURNAL:

- TAKE PLAIN WHITE SHEETS OF PAPER AND FOLD THEM IN HALF WIDTH WISE "HAMBURGER STYLE." IF USING BROWN PAPER BAGS, DO THE SAME.
- DO THE SAME WITH THE PIECE OF CARD STOCK.
- SANDWICH THE FOLDED WHITE PAPER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CARD STOCK MAKING A BOOK.
- STAPLE ALONG THE FOLDED EDGE OF THE PAPER.
- IF A STAPLER IS UNAVAILABLE, HOLES MAY BE MADE ON THE FOLDED SIDE OF THE PAPER AND YARN LACED THROUGH THE HOLES TO KEEP THE JOURNAL TOGETHER.

ACTIVITY 2:

PRACTICE YOUR OBSERVATION SKILLS. GO OUTSIDE AND CHOOSE A SMALL AREA TO WRITE DOWN OR SKETCH EVERYTHING YOU NOTICE. USE ALL OF YOUR SENSES. PLEASE DO NOT TASTE ANYTHING YOU ARE NOT 100% SURE IS EDIBLE.

ACTIVITY 3:

USING YOUR OBSERVATIONS AS A STARTING POINT, WRITE DOWN AS MANY QUESTIONS AS YOU CAN THINK OF RELATED TO WHAT YOU NOTICED. DON'T WORRY IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS. THIS IS THE PROCESS THAT SCIENTISTS USE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND SOMETHING.

ACTIVITY 4:

FINALLY, USE THE PROMPT, "IT REMINDS ME OF..." TO RECORD THE CONNECTIONS YOU MAKE BETWEEN WHAT YOU ARE OBSERVING AND WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW.

OTHER WAYS TO MAKE OBSERVATIONS:

- MEASURE
- SKETCH
- DESCRIBE COLORS, ODORS, TEXTURES
- DESCRIBE ANIMAL BEHAVIOURS