

Observing Like a Scientist

Sometimes there is a whole world to explore right in front of us, ways to stimulate our brain and examine our surroundings that we've never thought about before. With that idea in mind, let's make new discoveries by observing like a scientist!

Go outside and find a leaf. Take a look at that leaf, No REALLY LOOK, take a deep breath and look at it from all sides. What do you notice about it? Write down what you see.

What is its texture?

What is its shape?

What is its color?

Are the edges smooth or ridged?

Can you identify what type of tree/plant it came from?

Look at where the leaf came from. Is it in the sun? The shade?

Has anyone nibbled on that or other leaves?

What other kinds of plants are around?

Is the soil moist or dry? What color is the soil?

What day did you collect this leaf? What is the weather like?

On the back of this paper, **DRAW THE LEAF!** (Don't forget to add the veins.)

Extras: If you would like to compare your leaf to the way other scientists characterize leaves check out the following site:
http://clamp.ibcas.ac.cn/CLAMP_Definitions.html

After you discover your leaf, take a photo and share it with us if you like. Tweet it at us! Gram it our way! Put it on Facebook! Tag us with #IGBillinois