

Look, Listen, Discover

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How is water connected to the world around you?

Water is a part of and vital to everything around you. What can you discover by simply looking around and listening to your surroundings?

Key Topic: Climate and weather, Groundwater, Recharge, Runoff, Surface water, Water availability/water use, Water cycle, Wildlife

Grade Level: K - 5

Duration: 30 - 50 minutes

Objectives:

Observe your surroundings and investigate water's role in the world around you.

Items Needed:

- Writing utensil
- Paper

Activity Steps:

1. Hike around a local water body. Read and remind students of The Groundwater Foundation's **Safety First** rules.
2. Make sure all students have on proper attire (appropriate shoes, sunscreen, etc.)
3. Provide paper and a writing utensil for students to write a story, poem, song or draw their observations.

For More Fun:

- Limit the area students can observe. Use string to divide an area. Divide the students into small groups and assign areas. Ask the small groups to record different types of plants, insects, surface area, etc. that is within their observation area.
 - Which area had more diversity? (a bigger variety of plants, insects, etc.)
 - Which area had the most activity?
 - What are some differences between the areas?
 - What are some similarities between the areas?



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Questions to ask yourself:

- When it rains, where does the water go?
- What does your local water body look like? Deep, shallow, calm, choppy, big, small?
- How does the water look? Clear, cloudy, cool, dirty?
- What do the banks look like? Rocky, rich with vegetation, bare, slippery?
- How might the weather impact your location? Drought, storms, snow, rain?
- What potential contamination sources can you identify? Can you see trash and debris? Can you see something that might pose a threat to water quality?
- Do you see aquatic life? Are there insects in the water, in the vegetation, or under rocks?
- What types of wildlife can you see or hear?
- How are people using the water?



Record your observations



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