

Exercise A3.6: Nature-awareness booster

Objective/ Learning outcome: Notice and experience nature and increase observation skills

Time required: 20–30 minutes

Instructions:

This activity encourages you to notice and experience nature and increases your observation skills. It involves a nature walk and recording some information. Please follow the steps in sequential order.

- 1 Take a walk to the nearest natural area that is accessible to you. It could be a park or an open space in town or some farmland.
- 2 Take a sheet of paper and pen with you and note what you observe. Or, use the figures below to check whether you come across one or more of these types of organisms or elements. Note other things that you observe, such as sounds, smells or how things feel when you touch them.



- 3 Take a break for five minutes and discuss what you experienced with your classmates. Repeat the activity, but this time with the following questions:

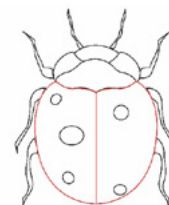
3.a.

- Where is the plant found? How big is the plant?
- What is the colour and texture of the soil that it is found in?
- What is the size and shape of the leaf? Feel the leaf and describe its texture.
- Are there any flowers on the plant? If yes, what colour?



3.b.

- What does the bug look like?
- Where did you see the bug?
- Were any other bug/insects present with the bug?
- How big is the bug?



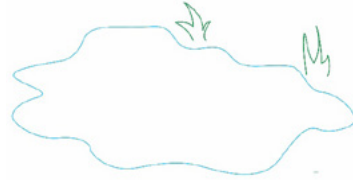
3.c.

- What colour is the bird?
- Where did you see it?
- What was the bird doing?
- Was it alone or was it with other birds?



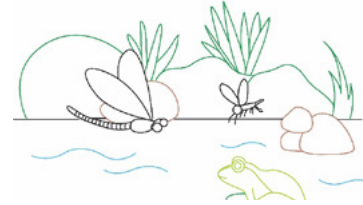
3.d.

- Where is the water located?
- Estimate how big the water body is.
- Is this area shady or not?



3.e.

- What does the habitat look like?
- Estimate how many species occupy this habitat.
- What name would you give this habitat? For example, pond, forest, or anything else?



3.f.

- How big is the caterpillar? What colour is it?
- Describe where it is found, for example, tree branch, or leaf, or flower?
- Is the caterpillar doing any activity?



3.g.

- How big is the spider? What colour is it?
- Where is it found? On a tree branch, or leaf, or flower?
- What is the spider doing?
- Is it seen with other spiders?



- Describe the sounds you hear, for example, melodious, raucous, repetitive, intrusive?
- Where do you think they are coming from?
- Describe the smell. Would you call it a strong smell or a very mild one?
- Do you like the smell?
- Where do you think it is coming from?

- 4 Discuss your notes from your first and second observations. Do you think you were more observant when you had questions?
- 5 Recreating and sharing your observations can often deepen your own understanding of them. Can your group think of a way to express your observations in a creative way? You could perform a short play, paint a mural, write a poem, or even choreograph a dance recital!