



A Monthly Routine

Documenting Change

Background Information

The study of seasonal and cyclical changes in the natural world is called **phenology**. This study is important in understanding the needs of plants and animals and the ways in which they adapt to seasonal changes. Documenting the seasonal changes in the natural environment provides students with an opportunity to practice paying close attention to their surroundings.

Materials

- Large Sticky Notes **OR** Index Cards and Tape
- Colored Pencils
- A Piece of Chart Paper

Procedure

1. Give each student a large sticky note on a clipboard.
2. Take a walk to an outdoor space near your school. This space can be as large or small as you like. Even just one tree or bush is enough for observations over time.
3. Have students draw one thing they observe using their post it note. It could be an insect or animal they see or a picture of the current state of a plant.
4. Have students share their observational drawings with a partner.
5. Add all student drawings to a class chart labeled with the date of the observation.
6. Repeat this activity throughout the year to create a timeline of your class observations.
7. With the changing seasons, use the class observations to begin conversations about how nature changes over time and making predictions about what will happen in the future.

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