

Start with Sticks (or stones)!

Tip: Sticks are a good option for the first entry, as they are easy to find year-round. Stones are another option, depending on what is available near the school.

Activity Instructions

Subject: Looking at Nature in Winter

Duration: 1 Hour

Setting: First 10 minutes outside, then in classroom to complete the diagram

Materials: Journal, 1 stick/stone per student, pencils

National Standards –

Guiding Theme: Starting your nature journal, getting comfortable with INIWIRMOs

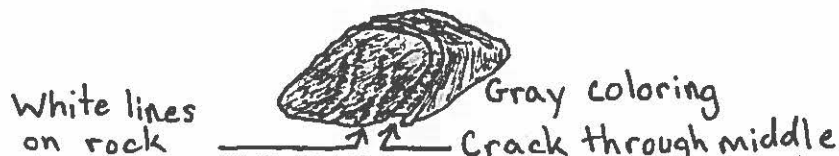
1. Take students out for a 10-minute walk to find an interesting stick, or stone, to draw for their first entry. Have students take their journals with them, and make a note on their page about where they found the stick (i.e. was it below a certain tree? How long might it have been there?).

2. Back in the classroom, give students 20 minutes to diagram and draw their item. *Rock found along waterfront in Seward, Alaska outside of the marina at the head of Resurrection Bay*

Introduce "Meta-Data" and INIWIRMO to students, and remind them to include in each nature journal entry.

*August 3, 2021
12:30pm Cloudy*

3. Students should diagram their item and show the details (i.e. if it's a stick, does it have bumps or spots? Is it all one color?) Important: remind students this is not about making the best drawing, rather about noticing as much as they can about their item.



Next, introduce the acronym "INIWIRMO" to students to remember the three phrases to write about in their nature journals in each entry.

I NOTICE...

I WONDER...

IT REMINDS ME OF...

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4. **I NOTICE:** When students finish drawing, have them say out loud: "I notice..." and finish the sentence with something they notice about the item. Have students try to notice 5 things at least, 10 is even better.

If students notice anything that is not in their drawing, have them add it. If they notice something that needs more explanation, have them write it down.

Students can use googly-eyes, or exclamation points at the start of an "I notice sentence". Show the sample symbols and encourage them to create their own if they want.

👁️ I notice the crack goes all the way around the rock

👁️ I notice the white streaks running along the gray colored rock

! I notice the crack runs deep almost cutting the rock in half

! I notice the crack is filled with white minerals

5. **I WONDER:** Have students look at their item and say out loud, "I wonder..." write what they wonder down, put a big symbol of a question mark at the start of an I wonder question. If a student has some possible answers to their question have them make a wonder web by circling their question and drawing a line out to each possible answer. Students should aim to have three to five "I wonder..." questions or webs.

? I wonder what caused the crack in the rock

? I wonder what type of rock this is

? I wonder what the white mineral is

6. **IT REMINDS ME OF:** Finally, have students consider their item, and what "it reminds me of..." This can be the whole item, or part of it. A good symbol for this is the wavy equal sign or just the letters IRMO

☞ The inside of the crack reminds me of cave stalagmites and stalagmites

☞ The white lines reminds me of a flowing river

Discussion Questions:

1. When students are all done, ask them to share their favorite "I notice," "I wonder," "and "it reminds me of." IRMO cave formations

2. What did you learn or notice about your stick that you hadn't seen or didn't know when you started?

I learned quartz flows fluidly filling in cracks in rocks during the formation.