



Drexel-SDP GK-12 ACTIVITY

Subject Areas: Physical Science, Variables, Chemical Science, Technology and Society, Food Science

Activity Title: I Spy: Observing the World Around Us

Grade Level: 5 (5–8)

Time Required: 2 weeks, 4 hrs pr week

Group Size: 4-5 students

Expendable Cost per Group: \$0.00 USD

Summary:

Students will learn to use their senses to observe and describe objects in the context of formulating a hypothesis as part of learning about the scientific method. This activity can be used to augment a number of curricular lessons, particularly those in identification of objects in an environment and studying the part in relation to the whole. Students by the end should become familiar with the ability to identify a subject and its surrounding as well as the following vocabulary words

Keywords: Observation, Environment, Hypothesis

Learning Objectives:

Learn and understand how to identify an object and its surroundings while using descriptive language to write down their observations.

Learn to direct scientific questions about the subject that they choose.

Educational Objectives: 3.1.7e, 3.2.7a, 3.2.7c

Materials List (include safety equipment if applicable):

Several large pictures of animals or the environment

A sheet of paper

Number two pencil

Procedure:

Students should have a basic understanding of the scientific process, though is not needed

and can be explained in the first few minutes of class. As part of exploring the scientific

process we can start by observing. The game I spy... is a great introduction to this concept.

The teacher picks out an object in the classroom and the students try to guess what it is as the teacher gives more and more detail. Then introduces a picture and have the students describe what is happening in the picture. This should take about ten to twenty minutes. The students are then asked to pick an object out and write in their journals an I spy... entry. It should have about one page of details, including:

- An introduction
I spy...
- A few sentences to a paragraph description of the object
- A few sentences to a paragraph description of the surroundings
- A conclusion

Example: Can you guess what I spy?

After the students complete their journal entries have them read them out loud and try to guess what it is that they spy.

Assessment:

Laboratory notebook

Activity Extensions: None

Other:

FOSS Solar Energy Unit

<http://lhsfoss.org/scope/5-6.html>

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Owner: Drexel University GK-12 program, *Engineering as a Contextual Vehicle for Science and Mathematics Education*, supported in part by National Science Foundation Award No. DGE-0538476

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