**Observation in the Garden Grades K-2**

**Description:**

Take your students to the garden to heighten their powers of observation. They will be comparing two plant parts to find their similarities and differences. For very young students, have them explain their drawings to each other or to the class.

**Preparation**

Before going outside, describe the garden rules to the learners. Explain that the garden is another kind of classroom. Engage them in a discussion about what rules would be best to promote respect of the living plants and animals in the garden as well as each other. Consider using garden based activities as a reward for good classroom behavior. Garden based activities are popular with parents and volunteers. Ask them for help so that they can facilitate groups of learners, especially with the instructions. For more techniques about managing learners in an outdoor setting, refer to: http://www.lifelab.org/wp-content/uploads/2003/04/OurdoorClassroomManagement2.pdf.

Gather two piles of similar objects. For example, gather two piles of leaves that have similar shapes but are from different plants. Or two piles of different kinds of cherry tomatoes. Divide the students into pairs.

Make sure each person has a pencil and a piece of blank paper or the worksheet on the following page. Each pair of students should take a part of the plant from each pile, so that each group has two similar objects.

**Purpose**

Explore the parts of a plant through their similarities and differences.

**Discussion**

Ask the students to fill in the sentence about their objects “I notice …” “I wonder….” and “That reminds me of ….”

For more journal exercises, visit John Muir Law and Emily Lygren Field Journaling Curriculum

<http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/curriculum/>

Colorado Academic Standards in Art: VA09-GR.1-S.3-GLE.1 , VA09-GR.2-S.2-GLE.1

**Observation in the Garden**

1. Draw each object below

 Object 1 Object 2

How are they the same?

How are they different?

What questions do you have?