

## Putting it all together

### Sit Spot

**Overview:** Students are isolated from one another in a single spot as they make observations using as many senses as possible. Use for frequent and repeated observations and reflections.

**Materials:** Journals, writing instruments, Jeffers LookIts (optional), color pencils

**Time:** 10 – 30 minutes

**Action:**

- Students are assigned or self-select a spot at which they will make and record multi-sensory observations for a specified time. They should use four of the five senses. This is a solo activity with no interaction between classmates.
- In conclusion, Circle UP for a brief sharing of experiences.

**Some suggested journaling prompts:**

**Signs of Life:** Who was here? What did they do? Describe evidence. (Signs include: tracks, scat, trails, nests, sounds, etc.) Include a sketch. Did you find any surprises? What questions do you have?

**Qualitative and Quantitative:** Make a list of 8 Qualitative (adjectives) features and 8 Quantitative (numbers) features of the object or area. Use 4 of your senses as you observe. (No tasting.) Include a sketch with labels. Did you find any surprises or questions?

**Mapping:** Use a journal page grid to map of your area and it's special features. Include labels, pictures, scale, and legend. Add reflections, questions or surprises about this area.

**Free Choice:** Draw. Write. Create poetry. Title your entry and have fun observing – use as many senses as possible.

**Observing the Invisible:** List as many ways as you can to prove that the wind is present. If you were the wind, where would you go and what would you do? Write a narrative or poem.

**Management Strategies:**

- For the initial activity, the teacher may assign the locations of the Sit Spots, but as students become familiar and a sense of trust builds, students may be allowed to select a favorite spot to which they return each time.
- Start with a short observation time. You may even ask students to spend at least 3 to 5 minutes observing before they begin writing or drawing. Extend times as students develop patience and increase skills.