

# How to Notice and Identify the Unseen

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Nature walks with your students can seem overwhelming. There is so much to see. It is so much bigger than the school. You might not feel confident in your background knowledge. You might even be frightened of the prospect. This lesson is intended to make you feel comfortable not knowing everything about Nature but still using critical thinking skills as you lead a walk in the woods with your students.

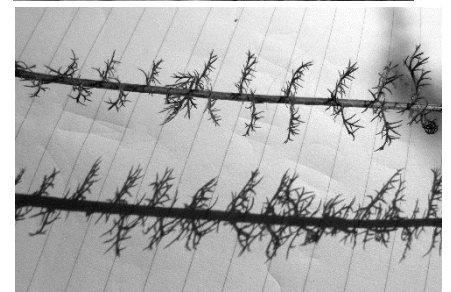
## Start familiar

Roadside, puddle, sidewalk

## Make observations – Observe closely; Inspire curiosity.

Use your students' senses to guide you. What do you see, hear, feel, or smell? Write or draw your observations in journal. Add to them. Let them incubate.

- What else does someone notice?
- How did you notice it? (did you see it after hearing it?, did you smell it first?, did you see it then listen to it?)
- Is it in dry woods, marshy, shore, wet conditions, field, or pond?
- Great observation. I never noticed that!
- How perceptive!



## Make inferences or deductions – be encouraging and curious yourself

Discuss what may have occurred using **EVERYONE'S** observations. Disagree respectfully. **IT IS PERFECTLY OKAY NOT TO HAVE AN ANSWER – EVEN AS A TEACHER.** More observations may give light on your inferences.

- What made you think that?
- What other explanations are there? I wonder if ....
- Have you seen (heard, felt, or smelled) something like it before? Where? How was it similar? I like that



idea! I never would have thought of that!