

**OVERVIEW**

Improve your students' observational skills and get them looking closely at plants with this quick and easy activity which can be done outside or in the classroom. Observation and looking closely are important scientific skills.

Can be used as a stand alone activity or to complement other activities focusing on plants and/or observational skills.

**ACTIVITY**

Working individually or in small groups, students need one of the images from the Look, Stop, Draw assorted plant images, or a real plant in the classroom or outdoors.

Give students 20 seconds to look at the plant and try and memorise it in as much detail as possible. For younger students, asking them to imagine taking a 'photograph' with their eyes can help.

After 20 seconds is up, cover the image or ask students to turn away from the plant and give them 1 minute to draw it in as much detail as possible from memory.

Once 1 minute has passed stop drawing! Look back at the plant – what did you remember, what did you miss? Compare your drawing with the image or plant.

**CURRICULUM LINKS**

- Working scientifically
- Observational skills
- Art and drawing

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- To make careful observations of plants

**RESOURCES**

- Look, Stop, Draw assorted plant images if paper based activity
- Real plants, cut flowers or pot plants indoors or out

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

- Pencils, paper
- Timer
- Clipboards if not working at a table
- Plants

**DIFFERENTIATION**

Extend or reduce the amount of time given to look at and/or draw the plant.

Either focus in on one part of the plant e.g. the flower and reproductive structures or look at the whole plant and its overall growing habit.

**EXTENSION ACTIVITIES**

Ask students to add in any details they missed to their drawing. Add labels and annotations to make it a scientific drawing and to practice vocabulary e.g. parts of a flower.

**LINKS AND FURTHER INFORMATION**

We'd love to hear from you! If you have questions or comments, or would like to book a visit to the Botanic Garden please get in touch: [education@botanic.cam.ac.uk](mailto:education@botanic.cam.ac.uk)