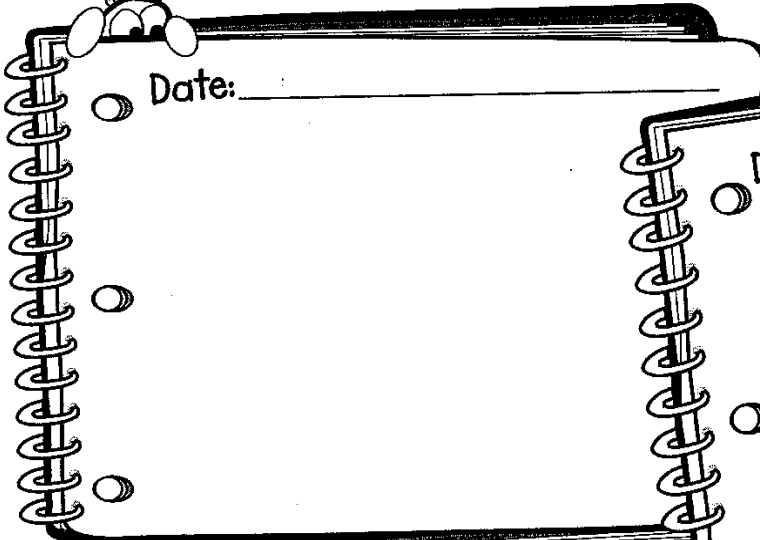


Name: _____ Date: _____

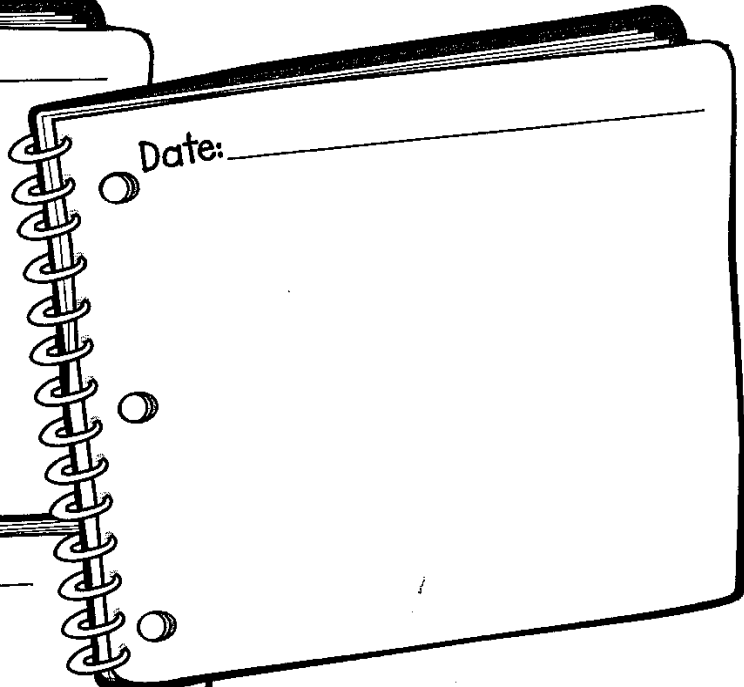
Observation Diary

Watch something change over time. Record the changes here.

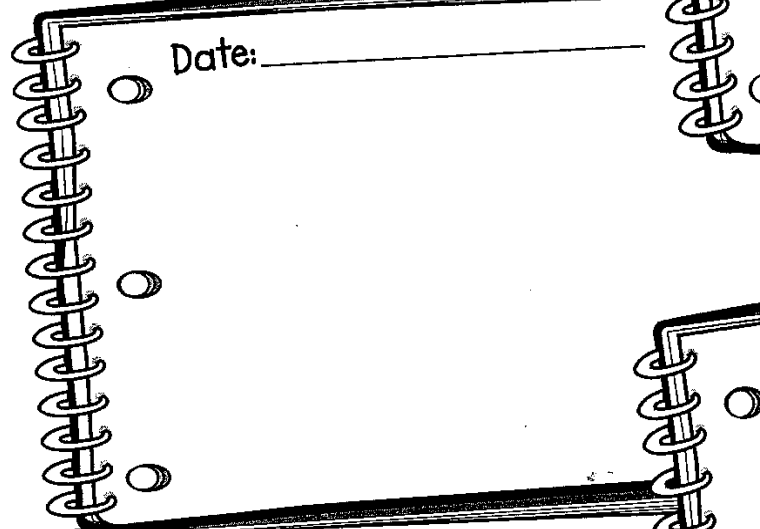
I'm observing: _____



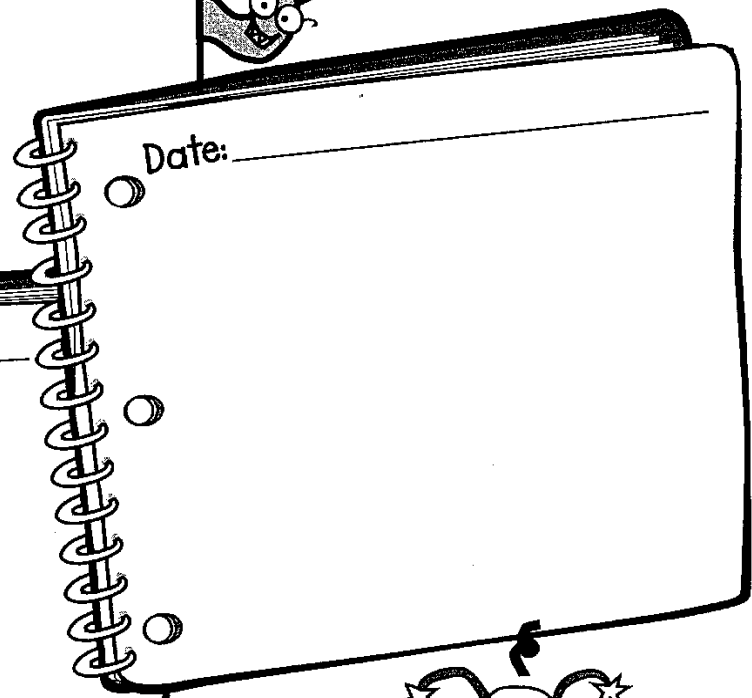
Date: _____



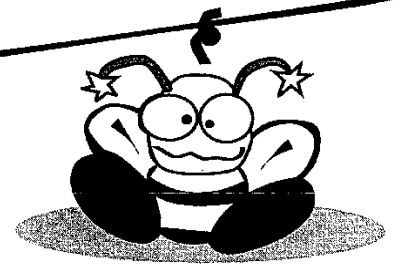
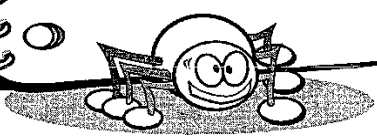
Date: _____



Date: _____



Date: _____



Skills

Students will:

- + record observations
- + describe natural changes
- + identify causes and effects
- + draw conclusions based on observations

Purpose

In order for children to truly understand the nature of biology, physical science, or chemistry, they need to develop their powers of observation. As they view changes, they will begin to develop hypotheses concerning the causes and effects, and later develop experiments to test their hypotheses. This organizer gives students practice in recording and sharing observations.

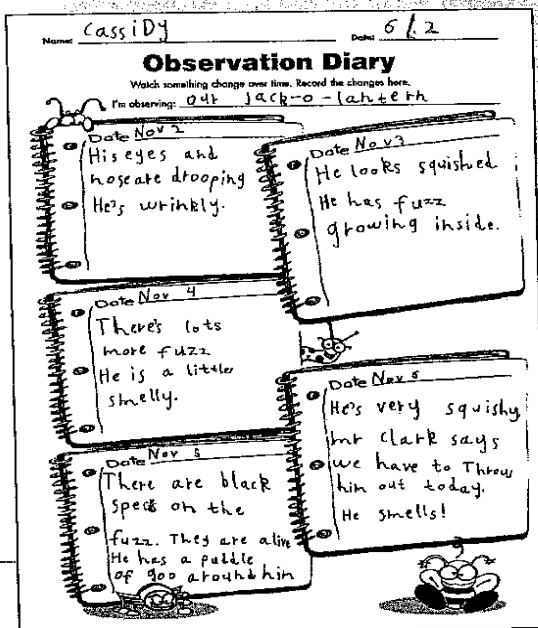
How to Use the Organizer

Introduce the Observation Diary organizer by asking students to consider the job of a scientist. Make a list of the behaviors scientists must practice to be good at what they do. Guide students to understand that scientists must be careful observers, they must record small details that may be of great importance, and that they need to speculate why changes in what they are observing occur. Next, ask students to independently observe changes in something the class is studying over time. Later, bring students together to share their observations and discuss their hypothesis as to why the changes happened.

Examples

Primary Grades

A first-grade student observed her jack-o-lantern decomposing on the windowsill. While sharing her Observation Diary, she suggested that the black specks were living organisms. The first-grade teacher agreed to bring in a microscope so the children could test this hypothesis before the pumpkin was discarded.



Intermediate Grades

A fifth grader chose to begin an ant farm for his science fair project. After observing the farm for three weeks, he posted his Observation Diary pages for other students to read. Research notes on how ants work together and how they bury their dead accompanied the observations.

