

## Tuesday: Observe

1. Complete the Observation tasks for your Quest in Botany, as outlined below and read in the audio recording.

### Two Ideas to Help You Observe

In our everyday lives, from when we wake to when we go to sleep, we see things and notice them with our thoughts or words. From the moment we open our eyes, we see the familiar surroundings, we remember whether it is a school day or weekend, perhaps we recall a dream. So, already within the first few moments of waking every day, you see and notice things that are real and touchable, and also have your own thoughts.

The world outside of your body, the outer world and the world inside your body, the inner world, are reflections of each other. Have you ever noticed that when it is raining outside, sometimes you feel a little down, less happy? Pay attention next time.... The weather can really affect our mood, because our inner world can be like a mirror to the outside world. And it goes the other way too – have you ever felt really grumpy (perhaps after losing a game or a sport match) and then the rest of the day might have seemed gloomy too? Perhaps when you think back to that memory, the weather seems darker to you than it did to everyone else, if you were to ask them. This is an amazing part of being human, and is very important to understand and keep in mind when you undertake this observation activity.

Whenever you observe (which means to look, watch or perceive) something in the outer world, outside your body, inside your body you will react. Feelings, memories or likes and dislikes will come up. Therefore, when we observe the outer world, we must also pay attention to our inner world because this can give us clues about what we are observing. So this will be something to keep in mind especially today and Thursday.

The second idea to hold throughout this task, is that everything in nature, everything natural in the world, follows a pattern of growth, or unfolding. Think about yourself as an example – when you were born, you could not lift your own head, walk or talk just like everyone other human being on this planet. And at around the same age as other human beings, you have grown taller, stronger, your hair has grown thicker, you learnt how to talk, grew teeth and learnt how to hold a pencil, kick a ball! Of course, to every pattern in the world, there are exceptions – some follow their own pattern or a different one all-together, but it is a pattern all the same.

Consider, then, that your plant is probably following its own pattern too, one that is guided by many things such as other plants nearby and the pattern that has been whispered to it from its parents as a seed. It's up to you to notice it!

### Observation Task

1. Keeping this in mind, sit by your plant with your draft book. Observe all the physical things about the plant you can notice, and write these in your draft books. Depending on your plant, you will describe different aspects, but here are some ideas:
  - It can be a very good idea to draw some sketches – draw what the leaf looks like, the flower, the stem, the mushroom cap, the lichen form and then you don't have to write much!

- The stem colour and shape
- Flower colour, how many petals – can you see pistils and stamen (from yesterday's story)
- Shape and colour of the mushroom cap
- Shape and colour of the leaves
- Colour of branches, shape of branches
- How many flowers
- How many leaves

Be as detailed as you can, you may need to move around the plant to really notice all sides.

2. Look for pattern in the plant – here are some ideas to help, and again, drawing can be a great option instead of writing.
  - Do the leaves come from the branch in a pattern, or is it random?
  - Do all the flowers have the same amount of petals?
  - Do the colours in the leaves start and fade in the same way?
  - If this plant is next to others of the same kind, are they shaped in the same way?
  - Do the leaves have a pattern in their veins?
  - What overall shape or pattern would you say the plant is following? Some may seem to be made of many spirals or one big spiral, others may look like a big semi-circle, or perhaps a cone (like the conifers), maybe it looks like a star, reaching spreading fingers, or a hunched back hiding from the sun...

When you have finished observing, and writing your observations in your draft books, please head back inside for the second step, which is...

2. Please design a page for your Questions to go in your project side of the Main Lesson book. This is your project, so it is up to you to design a beautiful, relevant page for your questions and answers, and to write neatly. Think of this as though you were making a poster – these pages will become part of what your project presentation.