



OBSERVING NATURE

Grade Level: 5

Overview	Students will observe the growth of a tree or other appropriate plant over the course of the year and measure its height, draw a picture, and record other data and information every month. The teacher will use Toodledo's calendar function to keep track of when to go and measure the tree again and make more observations.
Objective	As the months progress the students will see how the tree grows and changes and the teacher will explain that as the tree gets water and sunlight how it grows like they grow by eating food. They will measure the tree every month and keep precise measurements with appropriate units. They will also record physical descriptions they see, such as color.
Standards	5.5.1-Make precise and varied measurements and specify the appropriate units
Material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant outside, better if it can be seen from the classroom window • Tape measure • Paper • Pencil
Procedure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a lesson about how plants grow from sunshine and water. 2. Pick out a tree or other plant that your students can observe all year 3. Explain the year long project to the students 4. Take them outside so they can make their first entry in their journal. <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Height of the plant • Sketch of the plant • Other physical characteristics 5. Go out and see the tree every month and note how it changes from month to month if bad weather prevents you from going outside if you can see the tree from the window allow the students to do a visual inspection of the tree from the window and get measurements later for them to record in the journals
Evaluation	At the end of the year have a discussion about what they observed over the course of the year. Collect their journals for a grade and have them write a brief summary of what they learned.