

# Neighbourhood Noticing

Encourage your learners to look for something interesting outdoors, anything from a leaf to a puddle to a tiny bug. They can then share what they spotted by recording it in communiMap and telling their classmates about it as part of a discussion, design or literacy challenge.

## Outcomes

This activity encourages learners to:

- Look closer at the world around them
- Practise observation and description skills
- Connect personal noticing with real-world data
- Build confidence in sharing ideas



## How to Set It Up

### Choose Your Spot:

Pick an area near your school — the playground, garden, local green space, or even just outside the classroom window. It could be as simple as the tree at the gate or the flowerbed by the car park.

### Set the Challenge:

Ask each learner (or pairs) to spend 5–10 minutes noticing. They should look for one thing that catches their eye: a pattern on a leaf, a puddle in a dip, bird footprints, a spider's web — anything at all! They can take or make a quick sketch, adding notes to describe what they see.

## Questions you could ask learners as they explore:

What made you choose this thing?

Where did you find it?

Has it always been there?

What do you think might happen to it tomorrow?



## Think-Pair-Share

Before uploading to communiMap, ask learners to:

- Spend a moment quietly thinking about what they found and why it's interesting and then turn to a partner and describe their find in detail.
- These pairs or groups can then share with the whole group or small groups, comparing what they noticed and discussing similarities or surprises.



**Add the sightings to the Nature Co-Lab layer on the app.**

## Two Stars and a Wish

After the Think-Pair-Share, use Two Stars and a Wish as peer feedback:

- Each learner gives two positive comments (stars) about a peer's noticing, e.g., "I like how you described the pattern on the leaf."
- Then they give one suggestion (wish) for what else they could look for or describe next time, e.g., "I wish you'd add how it felt or smelled."

## Teacher Tips

### Keep It Short:

This can be done in 15–20 minutes, perfect for a short outdoor break.

### Do It Again:

Repeat it through the seasons to spot changes like puddles drying up, new buds on trees, animal signs.

### Use Group Roles:

For younger learners, pair or group them up with roles including one observer, one note-taker, one photographer.

## Extension Idea:

Challenge learners to create their own mini field notebook to record what they notice over a week or month, which could include plants, insects, weather, or signs of animals. They'll practise slowing down, observing carefully, and describing what they see.