

STEAM LEARNING SERIES

OBSERVATION IN ART & NATURE

Watch the video and follow the instructions below to explore nature through the art of photography.

Take some time, and use a camera or a sketchbook to record the world around you. Look closely at how people, animals, plants, and landscapes interact in our ecosystem!

Take 5–10 photographs that feature:

- plants, animals, and other organisms working together
- how weather affects the plants, animals, and organisms around us
- organisms interacting with man-made elements



ecosystem: a geographic area where plants, animals, and other organisms, as well as weather and landscapes, work together to form a bubble of life (from [National Geographic](#))

THINK LIKE AN ARTIST

As you are taking photos, **think like an artist** and take pictures of nature that draw you in with color, texture, or composition.

THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST

As you are taking photos, **think like a scientist** and take pictures of nature that show how plants and animals interact with their surrounding ecosystem.

Eugene Atget, *Image of Nenuphars*, from *Twenty Photographs, 1856–1927*

Gelatin silver print, 8 7/8 in. x 6 5/8 in., Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Archer M. Huntington Museum Fund, 1967

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THINK LIKE AN ARTIST

1. Pick your favorite photo of the series you took on your walk and sketch it below. If you have colored pencils or crayons, add color to your sketch. If not, describe the colors and textures you see in your photo.

2. Think about your photo as the middle of a story. Sketch the beginning and the end of the story below.

beginning

end

3. In 3–5 sentences, using descriptive language, write the story of your images.

Tip: Let your sketches be quick and free-flowing; they don't have to be perfect! You're just trying to record your favorite part of the photograph.

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THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST

1. Choose a photo that you took that shows an organism, and sketch the organism below.

2. Describe the organism using scientific language.

3. With the help of an adult, type the description of your organism into a search engine. What might your organism be?

4. If you don't get any results that remind you of your organism, how might you change your search? For example, what happens if you add "and Austin, Texas" to your search? Write any new results below.