



Adventures of a Garden Sleuth

Sleuth is another word for detective. Pick an area outside to investigate, either in your backyard or in a neighborhood park. Take a small shovel or large spoon with you to use to dig a hole. Also take a mat or blanket to sit on and a notebook or other hard surface to place your paper on when you write. Relax and take your time to look around carefully. You may need to make more than one trip to complete your adventures.

Find what you think is the youngest plant.

Why do you think so?

Draw a picture of it.

Find what you think is the oldest plant.

Why do you think so?

Draw a picture of it.

Find a flying insect.

Describe it.

What do you think it is?

Find a creature that lives in or on the ground.

Describe it.

What do you think it is?

Find the softest thing you can.

What is it?

Draw a picture of it.

Find the roughest thing you can.

What is it?

Draw a picture of it.

<p>Dig a hole in the ground about 6 inches deep.</p> <p>Look carefully. Describe what you see in the soil.</p> <p>Draw a picture of the most unusual thing.</p>	<p>What has the weather been like lately?</p> <p>Describe how the weather affects the plants around you.</p>
<p>Look for a place in bright sunlight.</p> <p>Describe the plants growing there.</p>	<p>Look for a spot in deep shade.</p> <p>Describe the plants growing there.</p>

Are the plants in the sun different from the plants in the shade? If yes, why do you think this is?

Count the plants that have buds on them. Why do you think some plants have buds and others don't?

Walk around slowly and look carefully. What questions do you have as you are looking at things in your chosen outdoor space? Write a question that a scientist might ask.