

Garden Education from the Salmon Center

What Goes on in the Garden

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In spring, our gardens (and yards) are thriving: flowers blooming, new plants emerging, birds calling, and butterflies, bees, and ladybugs flying all around. There's so much to see! Let's explore the lives of our neighbors in the garden.

Materials:

- Pen or pencil
- Paper or notebook

Instructions:

1. Take a walk through your garden/yard/neighborhood. Pick a spot you'd like to sit for a little while.
2. Sit quietly, letting the world settle around you. Remember that if you're still and quiet, more insects and animals will show themselves to you.
3. What catches your attention? Follow it with your eyes or ears to find its source, and whether it's a plant, animal, or insect.
4. When you know what you're noticing, begin writing a list. Include everything you can observe: what are you watching/hearing? What are its actions? Who or what else does it interact with that you can see? What sounds, colors, or textures can you describe?
5. Now write a list of what you might not be able to see or hear right now. Is this living thing ever underground? Is it making sounds you can't hear? What does it eat or need to survive?
6. Read both of your two lists. Use your observations and any information you know already to write or draw a story about your plant, animal, or insect. Describe its life cycle, its everyday actions, and the other parts of the garden that it interacts with.
7. If you're still inspired, pick something else and write a second story!