Observation Notebook Activities Ideas

- **Pattern Safari** – Great for younger kids!
  - Students sneak around the site and find different patterns & sketch all patterns found.
  - When a pattern is discovered, have a signal for students to point it out without noise (don’t want to walk the pattern up!), then all students quickly sketch the pattern in their observation notebook.

- **Ears to See** – Need a partner
  - Compare the sounds of two similar objects dropping.
  - Students take turns being blindfolded/eyes closed while the other student drops to similar objects on the table – one at a time. For example: a pencil & a pen.
  - Blindfolded student guesses when one was dropped first and explain their reasoning in their observation notebook.

- **What’s in a Room?** – Groups of 5 or Less
  - Have a small group of students go in a room or particular space on site and write down all they see.
  - Group compares with others’ lists to discover similarities & differences.
  - **Additional Option** = Have students that didn’t go into the room/space guess where the students were from their observation lists.

- **Shape Battle** – Small Groups
  - Assign different groups of students a different shape and see which group can find the most examples of that shape – positive & negative space is allowed.

- **I Spy** – Oldie but Goodie 😊
  - Perfect for those five extra minutes at the end of the day!

Preparing for Field Trips

- Practice what you will be doing – observing, sharing ideas and listening to others
- Observation activities and practice discussion will help a ton!
- Organize and give different groups of children “jobs” or specific things to look for while on the field trip
- Prepare with vocabulary flash cards – quizlet.com is a great resource
- Have notebooks for students to write down questions to investigate later as a group – helps to keep to the schedule

Low-Cost Art Related Field Trip Ideas

- **Indianapolis Art Museum – Guided Tours**
  - The museum will offset the cost of bus transportation up to $150 per day on a first-come, first-serve basis.

- **Indianapolis Art Museum – 100 Acres Sculpture Garden**

- **White River State Park – Sculpture in the Park**

- **Monon Love Train – Along the Monon (between 54th & 52nd)**

- **Indianapolis Art Center Grounds & Gallery**

- **Madame Walker Theatre**

- **Cultural Trail**

- **Nature Walk – At a Nearby Park and/or your Site**

- **Gallery of Reproductions and/or Student Work – At your Site**

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