

# SCHOOL GROUNDS OBSERVATIONS

*Students record observations of animals and plants found around their school yard.*

**ARIZONA ACADEMIC STANDARDS**  
SC03-S1C1-01,  
SC03-S4C3-01  
SC03-S4C3-05

## OBJECTIVES

Students should:

- recognize the diversity of plants and animals within their school yard.
- practice making outdoor observations.

## MATERIALS

- science journal and a pencil for each student
- magnifying glasses (optional)



## BACKGROUND

Observations taken in the school yard, nearby park or neighborhood offer many opportunities for students to sharpen their senses and increase their awareness of the living and non-living components of their environment. Even in urban areas, animals are prevalent, especially arthropods and birds, and a quiet observer can make many fascinating discoveries.

## DOING THE ACTIVITY

### SETTING THE STAGE

- 1) Tell students they will be going outside to look for signs of wildlife and desert plants.
- 2) Ask them to name some things they might find.

## OUTDOOR OBSERVATIONS

- 1) Take the class outside and let them explore. Look for animals, animal signs (tracks, scat, etc.), numbers and varieties of plants, and signs of man. Listen for sounds.
- 2) Students should make notes and drawings in their journals and share their findings with their classmates.
- 3) Return to the class and discuss students' findings.

## DISCUSSION

- 1) Have students compare what they found in their school yard to what they might find on a hike in the desert.

