

Drawn to Nature



Objective -- to sketch a small subject or detail from nature to heighten observation

Scientific illustrators can capture details of nature that most cameras cannot. Choose a detail of something botanical, like a leaf. Study it closely for at least five minutes before you begin drawing. As you observe, write brief notes on what you notice.

Look for --

- Shapes, and shapes that repeat
- Symmetry and asymmetry
- Texture
- edges
- colors, and variations of colors

Sketch your subject, or details of it, on the reverse of this sheet.

When you are done --

- What did you discover?
- What surprised you?

Exchange your observations with a partner; and discover what he/she observed as well.

Finally, find a similar subject (another leaf, but from a different plant). Look at it carefully and describe, through words or pencil, the similarities and differences.

Reflect -- What was this experience like for you?

