



Materials

- 2 Toilet Paper roll tubes OR 1 Paper Towel roll tube
 - If using a Paper Towel tube, ask an adult helper to cut it in half first!
- Glue, tape, or 2 rubber bands
- Yarn or string
- Paint or markers (Optional)
- Observation Page (attached)
- Writing Utensil

Learning Objectives

- I can make a pair of binoculars
- I can use binoculars to make observations about the different animals I see outside
- I can document the animals that I see by drawing them on my observation sheet

Skills



Gross Motor



Creative Play



Scientific Inquiry

Exploration

This activity begins by asking students if they know what **binoculars** are. If they do, have them explain what they are and what they're used for. If they don't, find an image to show them of someone using binoculars—which might spark their memory or give them some ideas of their use. Tell students that they will get to make their own pair of binoculars to then take outside and use them to search for animals. Directions for making the binoculars are below.



<http://adayinthelifeofonegirl.blogspot.com/2012/08/diy-binoculars-for-kids.html>

Once the binoculars are made, you are ready to go out into the wild and search for animals. Any outdoor space will work for this activity (yard, park, even the zoo!). Once outside, the student will mark the current weather on their observation sheet, and then use their binoculars to search the surrounding area for animals (remember, bugs and spiders are animals too!). Every time a new animal is found, they will record it on their observation page by drawing a picture of the animal that they see (and writing the name if able). Try to fill out all 9 squares on the observation page! When the exploration is over, take time to talk with the student about the different animals that they saw.

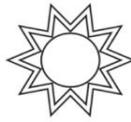
As an added challenge: repeat the activity on a new day where the *weather* is different to see if there are any similarities or differences to the number or types of animals that were found.

How to Make Binoculars

1. Take 2 toilet paper rolls (or 2 halves of a paper towel roll) and attach them using glue, tape, or rubber bands
2. Using scissors or a hole punch, punch a hole into the outside edge of both tubes on one end of the tubes
3. Run yarn or string through each hole and tie off with a knot so it doesn't come loose (your binoculars should look like a big necklace!)
4. Use paint, markers, or anything else you have around to decorate your binoculars!



Today, the weather is:



sunny



cloudy



rainy



snow

In each square below, draw a different animal that you see or find—remember, insects and bugs are animals too!

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