

Assignment #5: Janet Rabe

## Unit 1 - Environmental Sustainability

### Lesson 1

#### What is in our garden? An ecosystem exploration

**Grade Level:** Kindergarten

**Focus:** Observation in the garden

**Time:** 20 minutes

**Prep:** Plan with teacher to take groups of 5 at a time while another activity is going on in the classroom. Let students know day before to dress appropriately for being outside. Have clipboard with paper and pencil. Bring a set of the Private Eye Loupes for observation. (Students should have previous experience in using them).

**Warm up:** in classroom whole group (5 min)

“How many of you have been in a garden? What might you see in a garden? Turn to an elbow partner and share your idea.”

“A garden has many parts that work together. This is called a system. Today we are going to our garden in small groups to observe what we have in our garden.”

Get appropriate outerwear on and take first group to garden.

**Lesson:**

1. Sit in a circle on the log seats.

2. From this distance, "What do you see in our garden?"

3. "I am going to write that on my clipboard to keep track of our observations" Let multiple children respond. You may ask questions like "Why is that needed in a garden?" "What is that for?" etc. (5 min)

4. Pass out the loupes for each child to put around their neck. "Let's look more closely at the soil". Pass a little around to each child. "What does it look like? What does it remind you of?" Respond to some of their observations. (5 min)

5. "Now you can go around the garden and explore to see what else you might see in the garden. You may pick things up, but put them back where they were when you are done. In a garden we need to be respectful and gentle with things." (7 minutes).

**Debrief:** (remaining time)

Come back together. "What else did you find in the garden?" Write it on your clipboard. "There are many parts to a garden. Some of them work together so plants can grow. We call this an ecosystem".

Return to classroom to take next group.