Ecosystem Observations Activity
"Man, however much he may like to pretend, is part of nature." -- Rachel Carson, Silent Spring

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND
Today’s activity asks you to make various observations of the world around you. Attempt to be a “sponge” for details… try to observe things you’ve never noticed before. Answer the questions below…

OBSERVATIONS

I. Make descriptive, sensory observations about the ABIOTIC (non-living) CONDITIONS.
   1. How strong is the wind? What does it sound like? Where is it coming from?
   2. What does the water look, sound, and smell like? What color is it?
   3. What is the relative temperature?
   4. Look at the soil and the rocks.
      a) Physical description - color, texture, size, shape
      b) How does the soil feel - sandy, claylike, moist, and dry?
      c) How do the rocks feel?

II. Make descriptive, sensory observations about the BIOTIC (living) CONDITIONS.
   1. Make observations about ANY two animals. Describe their characteristics and their environment in detail.
   2. Make observations about a single tree, shrub or other plant. Describe their characteristics and their environment in detail.
   3. How do the biotic components interact with each other and the abiotic components of an ecosystem?