**Forest Sense**

**Objective:**

Students will use their senses to gather information about the forest.

**Standards of Learning:**

Science investigation “.1” and English writing SOLs

**Materials:**

• Clipboard with paper (or spiral notebook) and pencil for older students

• Pencil for older students; colored pencils or crayons for younger students

**In the Forest:**

Have students divide their paper into 4 boxes by drawing a line down the middle from top to bottom and a line across the middle from left to right. They should label the boxes SEE, HEAR, SMELL, and TOUCH.

Have each student find a spot to sit quietly in the forest, within an area you define. If possible, they should situate themselves where they are hidden, or mostly hidden, from view of other students. Ask them to sit and pay attention to their surroundings, using their senses to gather information. In the appropriate boxes, they should write down or sketch the things they see, hear, smell, and touch.

After about 10 minutes, call the students back to you. Ask volunteers to share some of the things they listed.

\* Variation for younger students:

Sit quietly as a group, and ask students to use their senses of sight, hearing, smell, and touch to gather information. After a few minutes, ask students to draw something that they just saw, heard, smelled, or touched. Take up the drawings for later use in the classroom.

**In the Classroom:**

Have students use the words they wrote down in the forest to create a poem or short essay, and illustrate it if they desire.

\* Variation for younger students:

Discuss things the students saw, heard, smelled, or touched. Put all the drawings together on the wall to make a “forest sense” mural.