

1. Demonstrate how to set up the plot:
 - a. Put one craft stick in the ground. This is one corner of a square plot.
 - b. Place a second craft stick into the ground at a distance equal to the length of the cardboard strip. This is the second corner.
 - c. Repeat step **A** to place the remaining sticks into the ground to form a square.
 - d. Use the yarn to connect the sticks.
2. Have students work in pairs and assign each pair of students to a study area.
3. Instruct students to set up their plots as demonstrated. Assist as necessary.
4. Review the **A**Plot Study Record chart. Refer to Supplement A.
5. Instruct students to observe and select natural objects and sort them by placing them on their **A**Plot Study Record chart.
6. Distribute a **A**Plot Study Record sheet to each pair of students. Have them write their names on it. Inform the students that they will count the objects which they have sorted on the *chart* and make a written record on the *sheet*.
7. For each pair of students, assign one to be the counter and one to be the recorder. Have each pair complete a **A**Plot Study Record sheet by recording the number of each object found. (Suggestion: use tally marks, counters, symbols or numerals to record).
8. Have students compare their plots by answering questions such as:
 - a. **A**Who found the most bugs?
 - b. **A**Who found the most rocks?
 - c. **A**How many things did you find all together?
9. Collect **A**Plot Study Record sheets to give to the teacher.
10. Instruct students to select one or more flat objects from their plot to use in making a sun print.
11. Have students restore their plot study area to its original condition.

Activity B: Sun Prints

1. Have students use a crayon to write their names on the back of the sun print paper.
2. Allow students to arrange objects from their plot on top of the sun print paper.
3. Cover paper and objects with plastic.
4. Expose to sunlight for 5 minutes.
5. Dip paper in tote tray of water. Allow to dry.
6. When dry, collect all the day's prints and put them in a box for transport back to school.

Activity C: Leaf Rubbings

1. Give each student a piece of newsprint and have students write their names on their newsprint with a crayon.

2. Place leaves, bark or other flat objects on a flat surface.
3. Cover the objects with newsprint.
4. With the flat side of a crayon, rub the newsprint covering the object to produce an image.
5. Move the paper to create additional rubbings.
6. Collect papers and put them in a box for transport back to school.

Summary:

1. Using the record sheet, allow students to share their observations.
 - a. What objects did you find? How many of each kind?
 - b. How was your plot different from someone else's?
 - c. How was your plot the same as someone else's?
2. Ask students, "How did you make a record of the things that you found in your plot?" (Plot Study Record sheet, sun print, leaf rubbing)

Follow-up:

1. Graph data from the Plot Study Record sheets.
2. Use sun prints to create a picture graph. Graph by category; for example, seeds, leaves, twigs, rocks, multiple objects, etc.
3. Develop an LEA or encourage a journal writing activity from the Plot Study activity.

Extension:

1. Provide opportunities for students to measure classroom objects using nonstandard units.
2. Dramatize and guess the identity of natural objects that were found in the plot study.
3. Use related literature to extend the experience.






Teacher Resources:

Books:

- < Hug a Tree, Rockwell, Robert, Gryphon House, Inc.
- < The Most Amazing Hide-and-Seek Counting Book, Crowther, Robert, Viking Penguin, Inc.
- < Moon to Sun: an Adding Book, Samton, Sheila, St. Martin's Press, Inc.
- < Count with Maisy, Cousins, Lucy, Candlewick Press.
- < One Duck, Another Duck, Pomerantz, Charlotte, Greenwillow Books, Inc.
- < One Green Frog, Hooker, Yvonne, Grosset.
- < Over in the Meadow: A Pop-up Counting Rhyme, Foreman, Michael, Simon & Schuster.

Names: _____

Plot Study Record

 bugs	 seeds
 leaves	 twigs
 rocks	other:

