Spring Stunner: Springtime Sense-Making

Part 1: Flowers

How do we understand the complex world around us? This is the question scientists ask and try to answer every day. This week, we invite you to try and answer this question with the Garden Educators at CitySprouts. For the next three weeks, we will be choosing pieces of the natural world to observe and sort to help us understand the amazing diversity of life in our own neighborhood.

What will you need?

- Something to record your observations (a camera 📸 or a notebook 📒)
- Something to draw with 🎨 🎨 🎨 🎨 🎨
- An adult to go on a walk with you 👥 👥
- A map of your neighborhood 🗺️ (optional!)
- A ruler �uler (optional!)

What will you do?

Your task has two parts today! The first is to go on a walk around your neighborhood and try to find as many flowers as you can. The second is to try and figure out how many different kinds of flowers you found on your walk.

You have two options to get ready!

For a simple map...

1. Draw your street as you see it from your front steps.
2. Walk down your street (safely of course!) and draw the flowers where you see them.
3. Include descriptions of your flowers to help you sort them later! Good things to note are:
   - The number of petals on a flower
   - The number of flowers per stem
   - The height of the flower
   - The shape of the flower and petals
   - Whether the flower is open like a sunflower 🌻 or closed like a tulip 🌷
For a more detailed map...

1. **Find a map of your neighborhood.** You can go to Google Maps (https://www.google.com/maps) and type in your address to get an idea of what it looks like. You should see something like this:

2. **Decide where you want to walk with your walking buddy.** Draw it out on your map! It’s good to have a clear idea ahead of time.

3. **Make a portable version of your map.** Maybe this will be a sketch, a screenshot on your phone, or something else! You’ll be walking the same route every week. This week you will use it to mark down where you find each of your flowers.

4. **Decide how you want to record your flowers.** Will you use a camera 📸 or a notebook 📒?

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**You’re all set now!**

Go on your walk and record as many flowers as you can find. When you take a photo or draw them, be sure that you have a way to keep track of them on your map (i.e. calling them Flower 1, Flower 2, etc.). Some good things to record are:

- The number of petals on a flower
- The number of flowers per stem
- The height of the flower
- The shape of the flower and petals
- Whether the flower is open like a sunflower 🌻 or closed like a tulip 🌷
- The shape of the reproductive parts.
When you come back from your walk...

You are going to figure out **how many different kinds of flowers you have in your neighborhood!** To do this you will be **sorting** your flowers into different groups. You could try doing this in a few different ways:

1. **Sorting by color!**
   🌺 🌸 ♀️ 🌷

2. **Sorting by size!**
   🌸🌹🌻🌼

3. **Sorting by shape!**
   - Open flowers with many petals: 🌺 🌸
   - Open flowers with five petals: 🌷
   - Closed flowers: 🌹 🌻

4. **Sorting by another category!** There are many ways to make sense of what we see in nature. You can come up with another category that works for you!

After you have sorted your flowers, make a short video showing us how you sorted your flowers, why you picked that method, and how many different kinds of flowers you think you have. *If you would like an extra ticket, show us your map!* Send finished submissions to igrosefelt@citysprouts.org.

Thank you for participating! Keep an eye out for our third Spring Stunner challenge next week!