

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Young Naturalist Project – Observations/Questions

Do not leave this assignment for the last minute. The weather may not cooperate and you may have to return to your site more than once.

Before you start, review the information from the YNA website:

<http://www.amnh.org/learn-teach/young-naturalist-awards>

Scroll all the way down and click on “Getting Started”. Read the information and use it to complete this part of the assignment.

*Finding a **place**, **describing** it, asking good **questions**:*

Your assignment is to find a place and get to know it. Go to a natural area—a park, or a stream. Your place could also be your own backyard, the woods that surround it, the Plainsboro Preserve, the Ron Rogers Arboretum, Grover’s Mill Pond, many of the small streams and ponds that surround this community. Look closely and listen carefully. What do you notice? What things spark your curiosity?

- Sketch what you see
- Write your initial observations and first impressions of the area
- Use your four senses to describe what you see (do not taste!)
- Give details
- What questions come to mind?

Write at least FIVE GOOD questions that come to mind. Don’t limit yourself to five but give each question some thought because it should lend itself to a good investigation. Don’t worry about how and which question to investigate just now. Keep an open mind, think outside the box, be curious and enjoy the lovely weather too.

Now you need to find out if those questions can lead to a good investigation

- When you get home, do some further research on those questions
- Look through newspapers, website articles, books, magazines
- Talk to some adults around you – park ranger, science minded neighbor, parents

You may have to revisit the areas till you are satisfied with your questions.

When you meet with your teacher to conference, you will decide on the best question to investigate.

Requirements:

1. Typed

- Title and heading (name, period, date, teacher)
- Study hall period and which days you have music lessons.
- A brief description of the place
- Minimum 5 questions and

2. Some sketches/drawing of the area (in a journal – not lab note book)

3. Field notes (in your journal)