

WONDER JOURNAL: THINGS THAT GROW

SUGGESTED GRADE RANGE: 3RD–8TH

Look carefully at this living sculpture by David Nash, then explore a natural area near you and wonder about the way plants and trees grow.

MATERIALS

Pencil and paper for recording notes, drawings and questions
Phone or camera

DIRECTIONS

See, Think, Wonder: Look carefully at this image, then list something you see, something you are thinking, and something you are wondering about.

I see...

I think...

I wonder...



The image is of a living sculpture by artist David Nash titled *Sabre Larch Hill*. What could this title mean? What is a larch? What is a sabre? (If you're not sure, look it up!)

Watch and Learn: *Sabre Larch Hill* is a sculpture that will grow and change over time. The larch trees that make up the sculpture have been planted and staked to grow at an angle. Over time, the trees will be pruned and re-staked so that they grow in the shape of a curve, similar to a sabre.



Learn more about the sculpture and David Nash's other work by [watching this video](#).

What will this sculpture look like in 50 years? 100 years? Draw a picture of what you imagine this sculpture will look like far in the future.

What is something that surprised you about this sculpture?

What is something you are still wondering about?

Explore and Wonder: Explore an outdoor area near you. Look for trees or plants that are growing crooked, at an angle, or in an unexpected way. Take photos or sketch what you find.



Choose a tree or plant you found that makes you wonder.

What do plants need in order to grow and survive?

What could have caused your plant to grow this way? What could it have been seeking?

What are you still wondering about the plant you chose? Use the question starters to list your wonderings below.

I Wonder...

How...
What...
Why...
When...
What would happen if...
What could be the reason for...
What caused...

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Keep a Wonder Journal (Language Arts, Science, Visual Arts)

Many people keep journals to write down what is happening or what they are thinking or feeling. Use a notebook or sketchbook to write or draw what you wonder. Keep your Wonder Journal handy so you can write down questions as you think of them. You can write questions you have while you are exploring, while you are learning about something new, or anytime you are feeling curious. Use your questions to look up things you are curious about and discover even more about the natural world!

Observe Like a Scientist (Science)

Observe what impact light has on growing plants.

- Place a potted plant or a seedling in front of a window. After a couple of days, mark on the edge of the pot the direction the leaves are pointing.
- Rotate the pot 180 degrees. Form a hypothesis about what the plant will do in response to you changing its orientation.
- After a few days, mark the direction the leaves are pointing on the edge of the pot again and compare the results to your hypothesis. Using what you know about plants and sunlight, provide a rationale for your observations.

What experiment could you conduct to build upon your findings and observations?

Track Something Growing (Science)

Choose a plant in your yard or plant a seed and track its growth over time. Record your observations every few days. Measure your plant's growth and/or draw what it looks like. What do you wonder about how it is growing or how it will change?

How do a plant's location and conditions affect how it grows? Try tracking two different plants growing in the same location or the same type of plant growing in areas with different conditions (for example, a shady area and an area with full sun). Record your observations of both plants every few days. How does their growth compare? Use what you know about plants and their needs to provide a rationale for your observations.



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and appreciation of gardens, sculpture,
the natural environment and the arts.