

Henry at Home

Noticing

Noticing means slowing down and giving your attention to something you might normally pass by. Henry David Thoreau, an American writer and philosopher, emphasized observation as a way of living deliberately.

Kids

Find three objects near you. They could be from your yard, sidewalk, classroom, porch or inside your home.

Try to find:

- One natural object
- One human-made object
- One very small object

Look closely. Turn it over. Look at it from the side.
What do you see now that you didn't notice at first?

Grown-ups

- Invite your child to describe what they notice about their objects before offering explanations.
- Gather three objects for yourself.

Ask:

- What details stand out?
- What patterns do you notice?
- What might this object tell us about where it came from?

Resist the urge to correct or teach the “right way.” The goal is attention.

Try Together

Compare your three objects.

- How are they alike?
- How are they different?
- What questions come to mind about your objects?

Choose one object and look at it again for one full minute. What new details appear when you observe it longer?

Connections

In school, children practice observing carefully before drawing conclusions. The same skill can grow anywhere. When families pause to notice together, they strengthen curiosity, focus, and critical thinking which are the foundation of both science and reflection.



Try this together...

Place

Each of you choose an object and set it in a square.

Notice

Take a quiet moment to look closely. Turn it. Tilt it. See what stands out.

Share

What did you notice?
What was the same?
What was different?

