

# Science at Home - The 1 Inch Square Project

## *Looking Closely Without a Microscope*

Science is about testing - and about looking closely. Some scientists use microscopes to take a close look. We're going to use a simple piece of paper.

### **What to Do:**

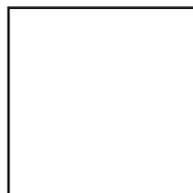
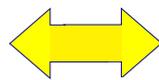
With your child, copy this page and cut out the square to make a one-inch square "window." (It's easiest to fold the page in half before you cut.)

Go outside with your child and have her choose something interesting: a tree trunk, a leaf, a flower, the soil surface, a slice of soil from a shovel, etc.

Then, she can put the window over whatever "thing" she has chosen and take the time to look at it closely.

Encourage your child to draw what she sees in the one-inch square, on a separate piece of paper. This will help her notice more details of what is in the square.

1 inch



Now, go to the following page and help your child with the questions about her observations.

This reproducible activity was adapted from the BioSITE program, Children's Discovery Museum, San Jose, CA and reprinted by the Title I Dissemination Project, 2001. Visit [www.hhmi.org/coolscience/inchsquare](http://www.hhmi.org/coolscience/inchsquare) for the original copy of this activity.

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## *Looking Closely Without a Microscope - Continued*

Kids! Answer these questions about the object you looked at through the “window” with an adult:

Name of object you observed:\_\_\_\_\_

### **Was the object:**

Hot or cold?\_\_\_\_\_Wet or dry?\_\_\_\_\_

Hard or soft?\_\_\_\_\_Bright or dark?\_\_\_\_\_

Smooth or rough?\_\_\_\_\_Alive or not?\_\_\_\_\_

Did it change while you watched? If yes, how?\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **More questions:**

How many colors did you see?\_\_\_\_\_

How many shapes did you see?\_\_\_\_\_

Was anything moving? What, and why?\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What surprised you?\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why did you choose that object to look at through the “window”, anyway?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Were your questions answered?\_\_\_\_\_

Where could you get more information?\_\_\_\_\_

**Looking is really science. Now you know how to observe and describe things in nature. Many scientists observe and describe every day they work!**