



Campbell Creek Science Center

Draw like a Naturalist: Riparian Area

Naturalists use sketches to record observations made in nature. Create a sketch of a river or creek and the land that borders it to become acquainted with a unique landscape known as a riparian area.

Directions

1. Visit a park or trail that is next to a river or stream. Explore the riparian area.
2. Make observations about the river and riverbank. See examples below.
3. Begin your sketch. Select part of the riparian area to draw. Your sketch should include water from the river, the riverbank, and some plants on the riverbank. You can choose how large or small the area is that you sketch.
4. Add more details. Spend at least 10 minutes completing your sketch. The goal of sketching is to help you record and remember your observations and questions.
5. Return to the same riparian area in a couple of months. Make another sketch of the area. How has it changed? What has remained the same? What are you wondering?

Materials

- Paper
- Pencil
- Colored pencils, markers, or crayons (optional)
- A clipboard or something to put the paper on while sketching.

Questions

- What is something you observed that you would like to learn more about?
- How do you think a riparian area changes throughout the year?

