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Raven Hill Discovery Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

Observations

Observations come from using your senses, including seeing, touching, hearing, smelling and tasting. Tasting should only be done, if it is safe—food and don't smell really strong chemicals, like ammonia. You could actually burn the inside of your nose. Many things that we observe don't make much sound, so that leaves most observations coming from **sight** and **touch**. Find something at home that you can observe and a piece of paper and pencil to record your observations. You could use a stuffed animal, a toy car or even a coffee mug. Your adult can help with the writing, if necessary. Common sight observations include things like size (use a ruler or compare to something—longer or shorter or the same length as a stapler), shape, color, parts, patterns and movement. Write down everything you see about your object. Touch observations include describing the texture, hardness, temperature, weight (use a scale or compare to something—more or less heavy than a stapler) and wetness. Write down everything you can feel by touching your object. Check out Raven Hill's website (www.MiRavenHill.org) or look below for a more complete list of observations. Some observations are based on change. For example, ask yourself questions like: Is it flexible? What happens if you press on it? What happens if you tap it gently? If you hold it up to the light, can you see through it? Once you have written all your observations, use those observations to write a story about your object. Your observations will help you write a great story. Checkers, Raven Hill's cornsnake, is a favorite subject for observation.



Observation Guide ~ Name _____

To observe is to use all five senses--sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell. Write about each attribute, property or characteristic listed below that you can observe in the given object.

Observation	Description
Sight	
• size	
• shape	
• texture	
• color	
• parts	
• patterns	
• movement	
• transparency	
• reflection	
• usage	
• flexibility	
• state of matter	
• symmetry	
• other	
Sound	
• loudness	
• patterns	
• pitch	
• speed	
• length	
• other	
Touch	
• hardness	
• texture	
• temperature	
• size	
• shape	
• weight	
• wetness	
• other	
Smell	
• strength	
• pleasantness	
• direction of source	
• other	
Taste	
• sweet	
• bitter	
• sour	
• salty	
• strength	
• other	
Observations based on change	
• Is it flexible?	
• Does it move?	
• Does it change temperature?	
• What happens, if pressure is applied?	
• What happens, if it is tapped gently?	
• Is there a difference, if it is held up to light?	
• Other?	