



MYSTERIOUS OBJECTS OF WONDER

Time taken: 30 minutes

Materials needed: basic art supplies, paper, a natural object

Pairs well with: Art Around Us, Nature Journaling

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and Academic skills practiced: observational skills, creative writing, descriptive language, respectful communication, artistic expression

- Invite your students or friends into a device free space (unless participating over a video chat!) and introduce the activity.
- Divide the group into pairs and encourage everyone to search for a Mysterious Object of Wonder! Keep the Mysterious Object of Wonder hidden from all other participants.
- Sit back to back so the object is hidden, but you can still communicate and decide who will be the describer and who will be the drawer.
- The describer will have two minutes to describe their object while the drawer draws. The goal is for the drawing to represent the object as accurately as possible without the artist seeing the object.
- Encourage the describers to use every second to describe their object. If they are stuck, try prompting them with these questions.
 - » How big is the object? Compare the object to a known item.
 - » What does the object feel like?
 - » What color is it?
 - » What does it remind you of?
 - » How heavy is the object?
- After two minutes, switch artist and descriptor.
- After the second round, collect all the objects in the center, and have everyone match their drawing to the correct object. Or, simply share the drawing and see how accurate it is.
- For an added challenge, find a set of similar objects. Only rocks, or sticks, or leaves, for example, and use them as the Mysterious Objects of Wonder. The challenge will be to match your drawing with your partner's object, and focusing on observing and describing distinctive details will be key!

Wrap up and discussion

- Were your drawings accurate? Why or why not?
- Which descriptions helped make your drawings more accurate?
- What is the value in close and careful observation?
- What would you do differently next time to help your partner produce a more accurate drawing?

Extension:

- Grab your journal and find another Mysterious Object of Wonder. Start the timer and write a stream of consciousness description of your object. See how long you can write about your object without stopping between words and sentences. Can you make it 2 minutes? 5 minutes? 10? 15?

Happy distancing,

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