Children use magnifying lenses to explore nature from a different perspective and stimulate creativity.

Nature Detectives 1



Keywords **outdoors • indoors • observation • sensory activity • visual poem • English**

1. Find a Nature Spot
Choose a small outdoor space for observation. It doesn't need to be large, even wild plants growing from walls will do. You can also expand on your Soil Magic Space.

2. Collect Seeds
Prepare small boxes with different seeds collected over summer or autumn. Include a variety of shapes, sizes, and textures.

Seed Collection Tip: Visit the Dinja Waħda YouTube Playlist: Seed Collection Videos.

3. Experiment with Loupes
Place loupes (or magnifying lenses) on a table. Invite the children to try them out and explore how they work. Encourage them to look closely at their own skin, hair, or eyes. Listen for their sense of wonder as things appear magnified.

4. Observe Seeds Closely
Give each child a loupe and lead the children to the seed boxes to have a close-up look at them. Let them examine the seeds and ask questions such as:

"What does it look like?", "How does it feel?", "What does it remind you of?"

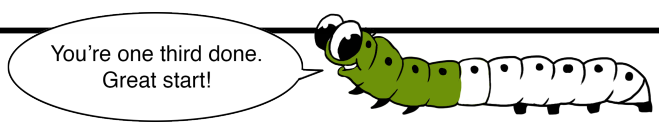
Write down the words and phrases the children use.

5. Create Sentences and Illustrations
Use the children's observations to build sentences like:

"It feels like…"

"It reminds me of…" (For example: "The seed feels bumpy like a tiny pebble.")

Write their sentences on a large chart. Invite the children to illustrate their ideas with drawings, magazine cutouts, or photos. Display the chart in class.



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6. Explore Nature Again
Return to the outdoor space with loupes to study leaves, soil, or other objects. Write down the children's words, but this time create a visual poem. Write a key word (e.g. leaf or soil) in the centre of a card and surround it with the children's drawings or words (e.g. feathers, wings, birds).

7. Share and Display
Display the children's visual poems in the classroom. Read their sentences or poems aloud and encourage them to reflect on how looking closely at nature inspired their ideas.

Send photos of

- ☐ Children using loupes to explore seeds and nature
- ☐ children using loupes to explore nature
- ☐ The chart with the children's sentences and drawings
- ☐ The visual poem display

Resources & Equipment Needed

- Loupes (may be available from BirdLife Malta – contact dinjawahda@birdlifemalta.org);
- Small boxes (one per seed type);
- Pens/pencils;
- Notepad;
- Large card for chart/poem;

