

Field Journal Examples

Check out these examples from International Nature Journaling Week and record your observations in the space provided on page 3

Example 1



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Example 2



Field Journal Examples: Observation Notes

Record your observations in the space provided.

- What do you notice?
- What is surprising?
- How are these field journal entries different from regular journal entries you have written before? How are they similar?

Field Journal Entry Checklist

Use the checklist to evaluate whether the field journal entry on page 5 has all the components listed. You can write any additional observations on the lines below.

Field Journal Entry Checklist

- What you observed (e.g., a rock, a flower)
- Descriptive details about its appearance
- Pictures of the subject from different angles
- The date of the observation
- Habitat information
- A measurement of the subject
- Any fun facts you might already know about the subject
- 5-10 sentences informing the reader about everything you learned from your observations
- An inference about your subject (an educated guess based on the information gathered)
- At least 3 vocabulary words from the Scientific Word Bank (page 7)

Additional observations:

Field Journal Entry: California Poppy

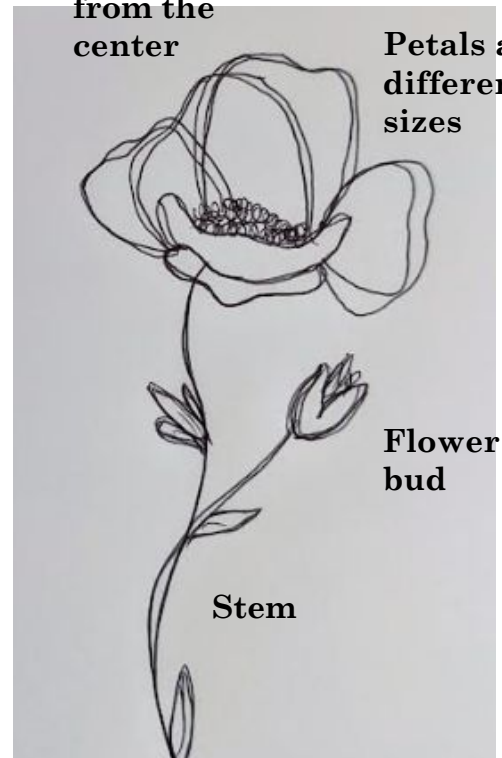
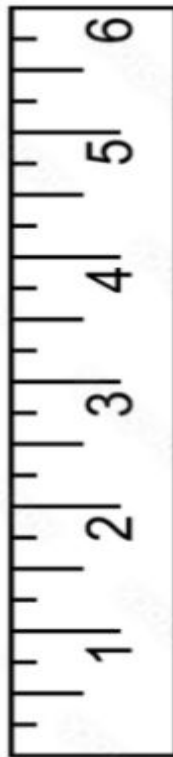
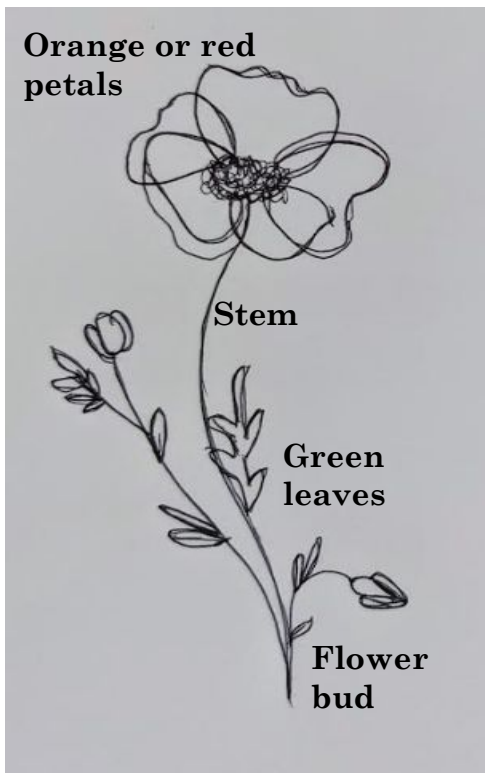
Use the checklist on page 4 to evaluate whether this field journal entry has all the listed criteria.

The California Poppy

About 6 inches tall

Pollen comes from the center

Petals are different sizes



Habitat: Native to California, popular in San Francisco

Fun fact: The poppy is California's state flower!

On September 6, 2023, I encountered a California poppy on my walk home from school. There were a bunch of them clustered together at the edges of the sidewalk. The petals were bright, sunset orange. I looked at one closely and observed that it had 5 petals of all different sizes. Vivid green stems connected the poppies to each other, and each stem had 3-10 leaf clusters. I was impressed by how many tiny leaves could fit on one flower! The poppies were sticking out of a small dirt patch and peeking out from cracks in the sidewalk. This tells me that poppies can survive in harsh conditions. It was a beautiful sunny day with a slight breeze, so I bet the poppies were very happy.

Field Journal Entry (In-Class Observation)






Use this space to complete an illustration from different angles. Include descriptive details of the subject's appearance, a measurement of the subject, and any other relevant information.

Field Journal Entry Checklist

- What you observed (e.g., a rock, a flower)
- Descriptive details about its appearance
- Pictures of the subject from different angles
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- At least 3 vocabulary words from the scientific word bank (included on page 7)

Field Journal Entry (In-Class Observation)

Take note of your observations for your informational paragraph. Use your five senses to guide you.

<p>Sight </p> <p><i>What do you see around you? What is surrounding your subject?</i></p>	
<p>Sound </p> <p><i>What do you hear? What noises does your subject make?</i></p>	
<p>Smell </p> <p><i>What do you smell? What do you imagine your subject smells like?</i></p>	
<p>Touch </p> <p><i>What do you feel (the wind, the sun, the grass)? Does your subject look soft or rough?</i></p>	
<p>Taste </p> <p><i>What flavors are in the air around you (food from the restaurants nearby, citrus from the orange tree)? Please do not put the object in your mouth.</i></p>	

Field Journal Entry (In Class Observation)

Use the space below to write an informational paragraph (5 to 10 sentences) about the subject of your observation. You can refer to the California Poppy journal entry on page 5 for an example.

Field Journal Entry Checklist

- What you observed (e.g., a rock, a flower)
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Field Journal Entry (Draft)






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Field Journal Entry Checklist

- What you observed (e.g., a rock, a flower)
- Descriptive details about its appearance
- Pictures of the subject from different angles
- The date of the observation
- Habitat information
- A measurement of the subject
 - Any fun facts you might already know about the subject
- 5-10 sentences informing the reader about everything you learned from your observations
- An inference about your subject (an educated guess based on the information gathered)
- At least 3 vocabulary words from the scientific word bank (included on page 7)

Field Journal Entry (Draft)

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<p>Sight </p> <p><i>What do you see around you? What is surrounding your subject?</i></p>	
<p>Sound </p> <p><i>What do you hear? What noises does your subject make?</i></p>	
<p>Smell </p> <p><i>What do you smell? What do you imagine your subject smells like?</i></p>	
<p>Touch </p> <p><i>What do you feel (the wind, the sun, the grass)? Does your subject look soft or rough?</i></p>	
<p>Taste </p> <p><i>What flavors are in the air around you (food from the restaurants nearby, citrus from the orange tree)? Please do not put the object in your mouth.</i></p>	

Field Journal Entry (Published Piece)

Use this space to complete an illustration from different angles. Include descriptive details of the subject's appearance, a measurement of the subject, and any other relevant information.

Scientific Word Bank

Category	Word	Part of Speech and Definition
Action Words	classify	(verb) to assign to a particular category
	demonstrate	(verb) to prove or show
	encounter	(verb) to find or experience unexpectedly
	infer	(verb) to find a conclusion or opinion because of facts or evidence
	observe	(verb) to notice and understand that it is important
	measure	(verb) to find the exact size of something
	record	(verb) to put in writing to keep
	survive	(verb) to continue to live
Plants	clustered	(adjective) growing or situated in a group
	leaf	(noun) the part of a plant that is usually green and attached to it by a stem or stalk
	seeds	(noun) the small parts produced by plants from which new plants grow
	soil	(noun) a mixture of organic matter, minerals, gasses, liquids, and organisms that support life of plants
	stem	(noun) the main trunk of a plant that supports buds and leaves
Environment	ecosystem	(noun) the interaction of all living organisms (like animals, plants, and bugs) in an area with all of the nonliving organisms (like water, dirt, rocks, and the sun)
	habitat	(noun) a place where an organism makes its home; a habitat meets all the environmental conditions an organism needs to survive
	weather	(noun) the temperature and other outside conditions (such as rain, wind, sun, or cloudiness)