

LKS2 – Lesson Plan 1 – Science

How can artists use observation skills to capture the detail of plants and animals?

Aim: Children will develop their observational drawing skills while learning about the structures and features of plants and animals, linking scientific accuracy with artistic creativity.	Key Words: • Observation, detail, texture, shading, pattern, structure, wildlife, habitat, natural forms, botanical illustration.	Preparation: • A selection of plants, flowers, shells, or animal photographs • Magnifying glasses or digital microscopes • Drawing paper, sketchbooks, pencils, fine liner pens, coloured pencils or watercolours • Science fact cards about each plant/animal
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Prior Learning: Children may have drawn plants or animals before but may not have focused on close-up detail or considered scientific accuracy in their work.

WC / PT	<u>Warm-up:</u> Show examples of botanical or wildlife art (e.g., Beatrix Potter's animal sketches, Maria Sibylla Merian's insect illustrations). Discuss what makes them accurate and detailed.	0-5 mins
WC	<u>Main Teach:</u> Model how to observe carefully: look at shapes, lines, colours, and textures. Show how to lightly sketch outlines before adding detail and shading. Discuss how artists can record features to help scientists study nature.	5-10 mins

I / S	<u>Activity:</u> Children select a plant or animal photo (or a real-life object like a leaf or shell) to study closely and draw in detail. They label parts of their drawing with correct scientific terms (e.g., petal, stem, thorax, antennae).	10-30 mins
I	<u>Extension Challenge:</u> Add background details to show the habitat where the plant or animal lives. Use watercolours to enhance the realism of the drawing.	30-35 mins
WC	<u>Plenary:</u> Children share their drawings with a partner, explaining both the artistic choices they made and the scientific facts they included. Create a classroom “Nature Gallery” display.	35-40 mins

WC – Whole Class

PT – Partner Talk

I – Independent

S - Support

Challenge A	Science Link: Research one interesting fact about the plant or animal and write it alongside your artwork.
Challenge B	Geography Link: Find out where in the world your chosen plant or animal is most commonly found and mark it on a map.