

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION
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LEARNING TO OBSERVE

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DINOSAUR DIG

Marian Berke

The focus of this activity is to classify and sort the properties of the body parts: number of legs, size of head, teeth, claws, etc.

Materials: outline drawings of several dinosaurs (or dinosaur skeletons), a copy paper box for each group, shredded newspaper or styrofoam pieces to stuff each box, magazine pictures or books with pictures of dinosaurs

Preparation:

- Duplicate outline pictures of dinosaurs.
- Paste the pictures onto oaktag.
- Cut each dinosaur into 3 or 4 puzzle pieces.
- Bury the pieces of one type of dinosaur in each box.

Procedures:

- Give each group a box (dig site).
- Explain to the class that they are going to pretend they are archaeologists or paleontologists at a dig. Students will "dig" very carefully and try to figure out what they have found.
- Display magazine pictures and books about dinosaurs. Ask students to match their "finds" to the pictures displayed.
- Have students describe the properties that match: head size, number of legs, tail size, plates, horns, etc.

Extensions:

- Repeat the activity, but leave out a piece of the dinosaur puzzle. Have the students draw what they think is the missing piece. Then give them a drawing of the actual piece. Have them make comparisons.
- Give pieces from the same puzzle to two groups. Have the groups share their pieces to complete the dinosaur.
- Put pieces from 2 different dinosaurs in each box.
- Leave a box in the science corner and keep changing the puzzle. Puzzles can also be made from modern animals or objects.

LEARNING TO OBSERVE

Gregory Grambo

I have heard adults and children say, "I know it like I know the back of my hand." But how well do they really know what the back of their hand looks like? There are things people see every day but don't really know anything about. There is a difference between seeing something and observing it. One way to teach observation skills to a child is to investigate something the child has seen many times before, such as a dollar bill.

Procedure:

1. Allow the children to look at copies of a dollar bill.

(Illustration #1)

2. When they think they know exactly what a dollar bill looks like, have them cover it with a sheet of paper.
3. Represent the front and back of a dollar bill as rectangles divided into sections where parts of the bill should go.

(Illustration #2)

4. Copy and then cut out the parts of the bill. Give each part a number.

(Illustration #3)

5. Ask the children to show where each part shown in Step 4 goes without looking at the dollar bill. They are to do so by writing the number of the part in the proper section of the illustration in Step 3. The children will have trouble doing this.
6. Question the children as to why they are having difficulty. They will tell you that they have seen many bills before but never really looked at them.
7. If the children really need help, then allow some "recall time." Have them look at the copy of the bill for ten seconds with their hands clasped behind their heads so that they cannot use a pen. Put away the copy of the bill and continue the activity.

ollow-up:

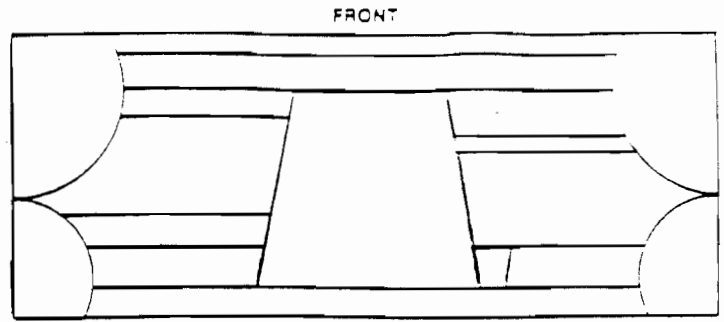
You can do this same activity with logos or mastheads from newspapers, box fronts from cereals or other things the children probably see and use every day.

**LEARNING HOW TO LOOK-
THE ART OF OBSERVING**

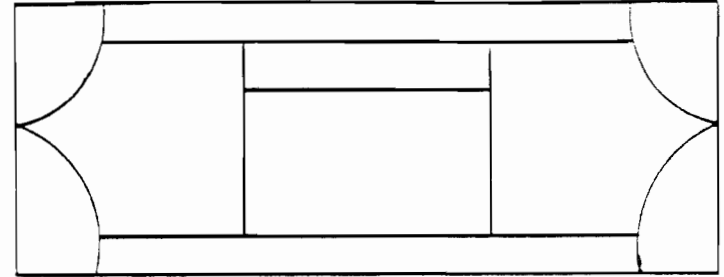
Look at this dollar bill very carefully. Try to remember the location of all numbers, words and pictures as they appear on both sides of the bill.



2



BACK



3



The Pacific Line is an imaginary line in the southwest Pacific that divides the life of the Austral region from that of the Pacific region.



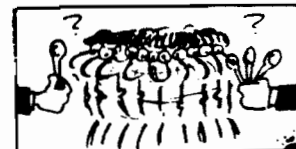
Few people realize that the asparagus is a member of the lily family. If allowed to grow, the asparagus tips would throw out tall stalks and crown them with six-petaled flowers, the trademark of the lily.

In old China, gongs were beaten to cure fits.

To open a coconut, use a clean screwdriver to punch holes all the way through the three ridges (eyes) that appear on one end. You can then drain the liquid.



Alaska—America's largest state, twice the size of Texas — has fewer people than any other state.



Here's a hint for cooks: there are three teaspoons in a tablespoon.

Learning How To Look- The Art Of Observing

A

Look at this one dollar bill very carefully. Try to remember the location of all numbers, words and pictures as they will appear on both sides of the bill.

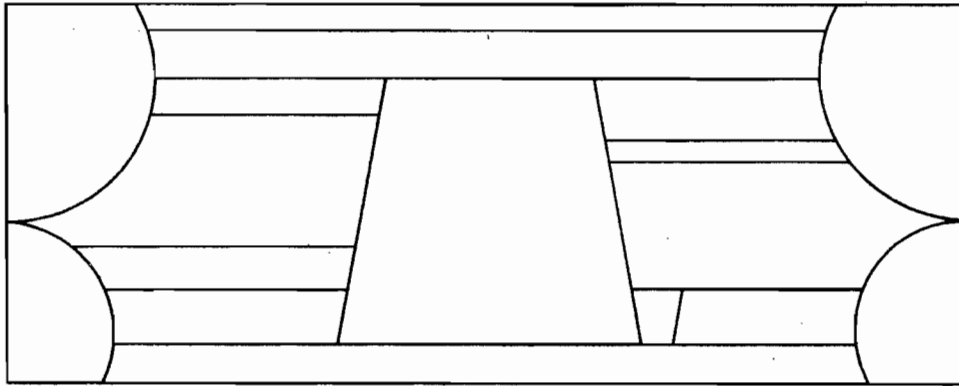


Learning How To Look - The Art Of Observing

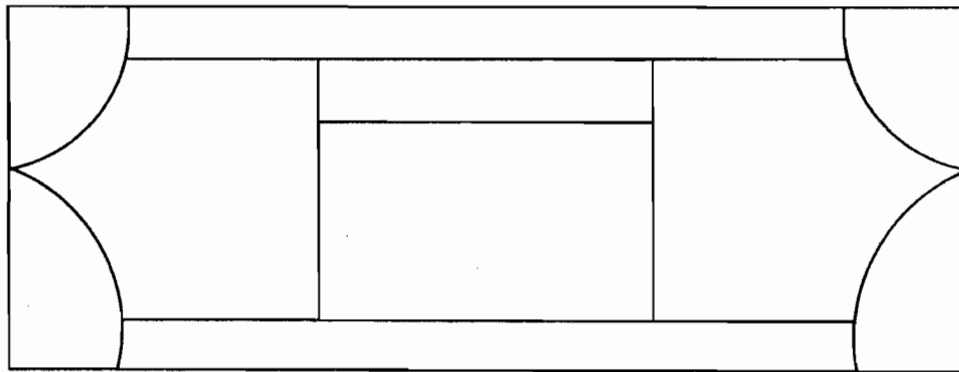
B

Using a wax pencil place the number of the correct parts in the sectioned areas.

FRONT



BACK



- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|----|--|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 12 | | 13 | | 14 | B 26484719 E |
| 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | 20 | | | | 15 | THIS NOTE IS LEGAL TENDER FOR ALL DEBTS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE |
| 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | 16 | IN GOD WE TRUST |
| 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | 17 | WASHINGTON, D.C. |
| 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | 18 | |
| 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | 19 | |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | 21 | |
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