

Spot the Difference

Overview:

In this low-key but fun activity, participants will be given two almost similar sets of images. One set of two images shows an ocean landscape with differences in pollution level and the other set of two images shows a yard landscape, with and without a pollinator garden. Participants will spend some time examining them to find the differences between the two pieces. Facilitators can help as needed.



Objectives:

- Practice “[slow looking](#)” and paying attention to details in situations where outdoor exploration is not practical.
- Recognize that by engaging in slow looking, one can notice differences in nature that signify healthy or degraded environments.
- Prepare for more involved observation activities in nature.

Materials:

1. Art set #1—Ocean: This set includes two images in the “spot the difference” style. They include an underwater scene with different fish, sea mammals, and corals. One piece includes a large boat and some trash, which in real life could lead to fewer whales and fish. The other includes a kayak, and has cleaner water and less noise pollution.
2. Art set #2—Urban Yard: This set is a bit closer to home for some. One piece includes a pollinator garden, where bees and butterflies can pick up pollen and move it from one flower to another, and the other a simpler grass yard.

Activity:

1. Pick one of the art sets and give the participants two minutes of focus time to spot the differences.
2. Ask the participants to share what differences they spotted.
3. You can continue the activity by discussing possible reasons for the differences, and what those differences might mean for the natural world. This is a great way to bring attention to how pollinator gardens attract birds and bees, and litter and loud boats affect ocean life. You can also discuss what actions we can take to help these ecosystems (for example: pick up litter, pick weeds, plant pollinator gardens, etc.).

Target Age: K-2 and elementary school

Time to Prep Activity: 5 minutes

Time to Complete Activity: 10-15 minutes

Perfect for: Indoors (at home, in the classroom, in the library...)

Other activities that connect:

If you're looking for other activities with the same feel but a bit more engagement, check out *Audio Puzzle*, and *What Creature Are You?* If you want to do something outdoors and be more involved, try the outdoor activities like the *Nature Bingo*, *Senses*, or *One Square Yard* activities.

Differences:

Art set #1 (Ocean): Sun, boat, inflatable raft, bottles near the surface, plastic bag, whale, net, school of fish, candy wrap, small coral fish, seaweeds, corals, octopi, yellow tang fish.

Art set #2 (Urban Yard): Open window, the person in the closed window, light in the closed window, crow, pollinator garden, blue jays, butterflies, bees, house number.

To print:

Spot-the-difference activity #1

Spot-the-difference activity #2







