

## Can you find these?

- a place that collects water after it rains
- a place where water is moving
- a place where soil has moved
- a dusty place
- a muddy place
- 2 different flowers with insects in them
- soil that is covered with leaves or old grass
- soil that is bare
- a plant or part that has been eaten by an animal
- 2 different fresh parts of a plant, and the same part that is rotten

## Now find these!

- 2 different plants that have a strong smell
- 2 different animals that make sounds
- a sticky seed
- a hairy seed or leaf
- a prickly or thorny part of a plant
- a grass stem that tastes sweet

## Draw these in your sketchbook while you are looking at them:

- 2 different seeds
- 2 different animal tracks
- plant roots that have dirt on them (hint: dig)
- a small insect or animal in soil
- moving water

# Questions

What we observe is not nature itself, but nature exposed to our method of questioning.

Werner Heisenberg

If they can get you asking the wrong questions, they don't have to worry about answers.

Thomas Pynchon, *Gravity's Rainbow*

Overwhelmed as we often are with information and competing answers, a challenge of our time is to empower and reward good questions, especially questions that can give people of all ages insight into the circle of life, the most powerful and creative planetary force.

One good way of empowering and rewarding questions is to ask each and every participant at the end of an activity, What new questions (and insights) do you have? For example, this can be done in a talking circle so that everyone has a chance to think and speak without interruption.

It is tempting to try to answer these questions. We may feel that is our role and duty, as educators. But what happens, what is communicated when we do this?

<https://soilcarboncoalition.org/downloads>: some resources for questions.