



# Beyond the Book Activity

## A Pig, A Fox, and A Box

by Jonathan Fenske

Once you have read the book, it is time to move outside. Take a few minutes to prepare for the outdoors and remember, the more comfortable you are the more success you will have on this endeavor. Follow the guide below to an adventure beyond the book!

Engage: Taking a Plant Survey	Extend: Be a Scientific Illustrator
<p>S.2.GS.7) In this lesson we spend time deeply observing one small area of yard or ground around us. Even if we don't know what they are called, we can see that there is a great diversity of plants even in the smallest spaces.</p> <p>Focus first on observing plants.</p> <p>Go outside with a notebook and find a patch of grass or ground that is about as big as one sheet of paper. Kneel down and look really closely at your patch of grass. Pick through with your fingers.</p> <p>You may be able to help your student recognize small differences between different kinds of plants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» How many different kinds of plants you can find in the space?</li> <li>» How can you tell if it is a different kind of plant?</li> <li>» What are some differences between the plants you found?</li> </ul>	<p>Encourage them to make a simple sketch. Focus on the small details you have observed and the real versus imagined shape of the plant.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">  </div> <div> <p>First sketch the general shape of your plant. Don't try to draw every single detail; you don't even have to draw every leaf!</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">  </div> <div> <p>Draw a horizon line behind your plant to separate the background from the middle ground.</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">  </div> <div> <p>Add contour lines to define the edges of your plant. This is a good time to use more pressure so that your pencil lines are darker.</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">  </div> <div> <p>Add value by shading around your contour lines. Value in art is how light or dark something is. Try using the side of your pencil tip and different pressures.</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">  </div> <div> <p>Complete your sketch by adding details. Take a moment to look really closely at your plant for small details.</p> </div> </div>
Explore: Get to Know Your Plant	Resources
<p>Help them pick one of the plants you found to observe more closely.</p> <p>Write down observations about your plant like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» How big is it?</li> <li>» What do the leaves look like?</li> <li>» What color is it?</li> <li>» Are there any bugs or other living things on it?</li> <li>» Is it flowering?</li> <li>» Does it have seeds?</li> </ul>	<p>Read about Ynes Mexia: a woman who discovered 500 new species of plants, after she started learning botany at age 51: <a href="https://massivesci.com/articles/ynex-mexia-our-heroes/">https://massivesci.com/articles/ynex-mexia-our-heroes/</a></p> <p>View a time-lapse video of seeds sprouting: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECibetK2EYI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECibetK2EYI</a></p> <p>Listen to Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tQcSKH37AY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tQcSKH37AY</a></p>

