



THE INSTITUTE FOR HUMANE EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 260  
SURRY, MAINE 04684  
207.667.1025  
[info@HumaneEducation.org](mailto:info@HumaneEducation.org)  
[www.HumaneEducation.org](http://www.HumaneEducation.org)

## EVERYTHING IS BEAUTIFUL

**Grades:** K-2

**Time:** 15-30 minutes

**Materials:** a blank sheet of 8 ½" x 11" paper for each person; writing/drawing utensils

**Relevant Subjects:** Science, Health, Language Arts, Environmental Studies, and Art

**Pertinent Information:** This activity is an excellent opening for exploring topics such as environmental issues, the five senses, classifying and connecting, etc.

This activity needs to take place in a natural area; preferably one with a variety of natural examples available to observe.

1. Have students sit in a circle in your designated outside location. Ask them to close their eyes and to “think of something that’s beautiful to you.”
2. Ask volunteers to share examples.
3. Ask, “How many of you think that we can find beautiful things here outside?”
4. Tell students that they’re going to take some time to find beautiful things around them:
  - Give each student a piece of paper and something to write with.
  - Demonstrate how to fold the paper lengthwise and crosswise, so that when they open it up again, the creases create four sections on their paper.
  - Ask them to label their sections: Sights, Sounds, Feel, Smell.
  - Take a moment to ask students why they think “taste” isn’t one of the options. Confirm for them that there might be some things that might hurt them if they put it in their mouths, so nothing should go in their mouths during this activity.
5. Explain to students that they will have five (to 15) minutes (depending on your preference and the time available) to explore the area (be sure to let them know the boundaries for their exploration) and find things that are beautiful. They can write down or draw pictures of things they hear, see, feel and smell. Let them know what the signal will be (such as clapping your hands loudly three times) for them to return to you and sit in a circle again.

6. Once students have done their exploration and have returned to the circle, ask volunteers to share their examples. “What do they all have in common?” (They’re all a part of nature.)
7. Ask students to take a moment to notice and enjoy some of the beautiful things that their classmates noticed that they didn’t.

**Activity by Karen Patterson (M.Ed. Student)**