

## 'My Outdoor Classroom' Lesson Plan

### School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) - Curriculum Links

- *Kindergarten - Communicating:* Children understand how symbols and pattern systems work (recognise simple patterns and relationships, identify patterns in the environment, copy simple patterns)
- *Pre-primary Maths:* Sort and classify familiar objects and explain the basis for these classifications. Copy, continue and create patterns with objects and drawings (ACMNA005)
- *Year 1 Maths:* Investigate and describe patterns with objects (ACMNA018)

# Undercover Patterns

## Activity 5

### Resources:

- Three sheets of newspaper per team
- Paper bags (one per person)
- Stopwatch (optional)

### Introduction

This activity is part memory game, part scavenger hunt! Children work in pairs to recreate a mystery pattern they have only seen once!

### Before You Head Out

Have some fun with the children thinking of an undercover agent name for themselves. They are going to have to use all their detective skills of observation, attention to detail, memory, patience, and persistence.

### Undercover Patterns Activity Steps

- ① Head outside and decide on the area which can be used for collection and which area will be the home base.
- ② For the game, divide the class into pairs with one child given the alias of Undercover Agent A and the other Undercover Agent B.
- ③ All the children explore the space and collect items in their paper bags ensuring that they have at least two the same of each one.



### Undercover Patterns Activity Steps (continued)

4

After a few minutes, they will return to the base. Undercover Agent A tips out all their items and chooses some to create and arrange an undercover nature pattern on the newspaper. Agent B turns away and covers their eyes.

5

At a signal, Agent B looks back at the pattern and uses their observational skills to notice and memorise all the details. Agent A counts to 20 quietly. When the time is up, the pattern is covered with the second piece of newspaper.

6

Agent B then looks through the remaining items from Agent A's paper bag collection and tries to replicate the pattern on a third piece of newspaper.

7

Agent A removes the top newspaper to reveal the original pattern for Agent B to check. Is it the right number of materials? Is it the right type of materials? Is the spacing correct?

8

Swap over.

### Reflection/Discussion

What was the verdict? Were the Undercover Agents effective detectives?

Did they pay attention to detail? Could they remember those details? Were they patient and persistent in finding the matching materials?

To make this challenge easier use fewer materials in the pattern or give more time to memorise the pattern (consider age and ability).

To make this challenge harder use more materials in the pattern or give less time to memorise the pattern (consider age and ability). This could also be played in pairs where there is opportunity for collaboration.

### Elaboration/Extension

**Body percussion:** Create a pattern of body percussion. One of the Agents creates a pattern of movements for the other Agents to copy. This could turn into a dance to present to all the Undercover Agents.

**Nature print:** Fold a piece of paper in half and open it up again. Paint natural materials and press them to the paper to make a print. While the paint is still wet, fold the paper over, press down and open to reveal a copy of the pattern!

**Sardines:** Have a game of Hide and Seek or Sardines. In Sardines, one person goes to hide and everyone else is a seeker. When one of the seekers finds someone hiding, they sneak into the hiding place as well. The game continues until there is only one seeker left.

## Teacher Observations

What worked well:

What would I do differently next time:

## Curriculum Links

Extra detail relevant to year groups can be found by following the Curriculum link to SCSA. Elaborate on, extend, and integrate this activity with other learning areas where possible.

- *Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines*  
<https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/p-10-curriculum/kindergarten-curriculum-guidelines/learning-development-areas/communicating>
- *School Curriculum and Standards Authority*  
<https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/teaching/curriculum-browser/mathematics-v8>



Visit the website [app.naturepassport.org](http://app.naturepassport.org) (My Outdoor Classroom Activity Pack) to complete this activity and many more! Alternatively, download the free **Nature Passport** app from your **App Store**.

Visit [www.naturepassport.org](http://www.naturepassport.org) for more information and ideas.

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Print the Nature Passport Booklets for your students to use with this lesson!

