

Science–Magnified!

Observation is a key tool of scientists. A magnifying glass, or a jeweler’s loop with a higher magnification power, will help carschoolers see details and things that they didn’t know existed. Encourage them to look at everything they can find in the car—hair, clothing, car seat fabric, seat belts, maps, food, fingernails, skin, scabs, dirt, dried up apple, candy, sandwich crusts, paper, wrappers, other people’s hands. When you get to your destination, collect more things to examine with the magnifying glass on the way home such as dirt, feathers, weeds, leaves, flowers, seeds, dead bugs, pond scum (sealed in a plastic bag)—anything! Encourage carschoolers to sketch what they see through the magnifying glass in their Carschool Science Journal. This activity teaches two important scientific skills: observation and recording.

Be sure to talk about what your car students see, too. Ask if they see patterns, geometric shapes, symmetrical pieces, fibers, threads, globules, segments, or strands. Give them the vocabulary words (during the course of normal car conversation) to describe what they see. All of the items they describe are components or building blocks that make up the things that they see. Compare and contrast things and talk about how they are similar or different.

Ask the younger carschoolers to sort the things you have collected into categories: for example, put all of the seeds in one bag, all of

From the Information Highway

Did you ever notice that bugs that splat on your windshield have different colored blood?

Bug blood is called hemolymph. It is clear and composed mostly of water. It is tinged with color, depending on what the bug eats. If the blood is green, the bug ate leaves. If the blood is yellow, it ate nectar from flowers. If the blood is black, the bug ate other bugs. Sometimes you will see what looks like red blood in a squashed insect like a fly. That is not blood, but a pigment from the bug’s eyes.