



## *Patterns in Nature*

Overview: Students will learn the concept of a pattern. Students will be able to identify, continue and create patterns. Students will learn to recognize patterns in nature.

Subject Areas: Science, Art

Grade Levels: PreK-2

Topics: Science, Art

Great Lakes Literacy Principles:

5. The Great Lakes support a broad diversity of life and ecosystems.

Materials:

Images of common patterns in nature

Cut outs of a variety of shapes in a variety of colors

Procedure:

1. Introduce the concept of a pattern using the cut outs of shapes. Begin with identifying shapes and their colors. Create a repeating sequence of one kind of shape and question the students about it, i.e. 'what do you notice about this line of shapes?' 'Are they all the same shape/color?'
2. Now, create an alternating sequence (and 'AB' pattern) and ask the students 'what shape comes next?' If they are able to continue the pattern, move on and ask them to create their own pattern using the shapes. Check their work and correct as needed.
3. Move from their patterns into patterns using other natural objects (e.g. pine cones, leaves, etc.) Begin looking at the objects themselves for smaller patterns (e.g. the regular repetition of shape in a pine cone or vein patterns on leaves).
4. Show the students the images of common patterns in nature and ask if they have ever seen/observed any of them. Discuss the patterns and what makes them patterns.
5. Now, take a nature walk and look for those patterns in nature and try to find new or different patterns.

Teacher Reflection:

*Please find "comments" section on the curriculum page.*