


Sightings from Home

An activity of "Forest watchman helps keep tigers safe"

Read "Forest watchman helps keep tigers safe" (Story 11A, *What's Up* April 2020). Mr Sreenivasan and his colleagues draw grids to map out forests so that they can collect facts scientifically about tigers.

Grids can be useful to us, too. Try using a grid to gather and record what you see without stepping out of your home. Unlike Mr Sreenivasan roaming around big forests, we must stay home at this time. We can only see a small part of our neighbourhoods without stepping out. Yet, there is always lots to observe for those who look hard enough.

1. On a clean sheet of paper, draw a grid of 10 by 10 lines. Make your grid as large as the sheet of paper allows. Your grid would look like this  before Step 3. The two stars are the examples given in Step 4.
2. Look out of every window at home. Select the window with the most interesting view.
3. Over your grid, sketch the still life you see from that window. For example, you may see buildings, trees, a road, a playground or even a river. The scene you have sketched is your "field of observation".
4. Pick any one day in the week to do your window observations. On that day, look out of that window every hour that you are awake. Do this for only five minutes each time.

Life Goes On!										
Observer:					Date:					
A										
B										
C										
D					★9am					
E										
F										
G										
H	★8am									
I										
J										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IMPORTANT RULE: You must respect the privacy of your neighbours. Do not look into any of their homes. Only observe what is in public space.

5. Place a star in your grid for every sighting of life in your field of observation. Whenever you plot a star, jot down the time. For example: ★8am, ★9am, and so on.
6. Below the table, describe each sighting. Use the coordinates in the grid to indicate locations.
For example:
★9am: *Cat walks from 2H to 6D, settles down under the tree, falls asleep.*
★11am: *Cat wakes up, stretches fully, stares at me, blinks, yawns.*
7. When you look out of your window, don't expect to find a tiger looking back at you! Even so, you may be surprised at how much life is out there for you to observe and enjoy.
8. Write an essay about your discoveries. Then, email your essay to letters@whatsup.sg so that other *What's Up* readers can enjoy imagining the scene from your window. Remember to add your full name, class, and school. If your essay gets published, you will get a prize when school reopens.