Science Spin

TEACHER'S GUIDE
K-1 • September 2024

Editor's Note: I'm so thrilled you're here, I wrote a rascally new raccoon video for your students! To watch, register at **sciencespink1.scholastic.com**. Use the access code below; **it's unique to *Science Spin*.** You need to register only once. Then you'll have full access to our digital resources (cute raccoon videos included) and our content-rich archive.

—Erin Kelly

Reading Objective: Students will identify steps scientists use to conduct investigations as they read about a raccoon scientist's experiment.

Next Generation Science Standards:
Practice 3: Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
K-LS1: Animals' survival needs
1-LS1: The survival needs of plants and animals

Vocabulary: test, observe, record, loner, social

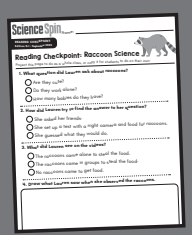
Attention, Teachers!

Go to SCIENCESPINk1.SCHOLASTIC.COM to activate your online resources.

This code is unique to *Science Spin*.

VIDEOS

SKILL SHEETS



Fun Facts to Share

- Raccoons are supersmart mammals that can solve some of the trickiest puzzles.
- A raccoon's sense of touch is its superpower—letting it know what anything is, even in the dark.
- President Calvin Coolidge kept a raccoon named Rebecca in the White House. (A bad idea—wild animals can be dangerous.)

Hands-On STEM Activity

Be a Scientist: Observe an Animal

Materials: Pencils, clipboards, copies of the skill sheet. (Optional: hand lenses)

Overview: Like Lauren, students will observe an animal and record what it does. Skip the night cameras and head outside to find one. (Alternate: Observe a tree or other item in nature, or use photos/videos indoors.)

Directions:

1. Before you leave the classroom, tell students they'll go outside to be animal scientists like Lauren. Remind kids that she **observes** animals to learn about them.
2. Give each student a clipboard, a pencil, and a copy of the skill sheet. Head outside.
3. Ask kids what animals they see or might see. Remind them that if they're quiet, they can observe more. Do they see or hear any birds or insects? At first, just let them explore and soak up impressions.
4. When students spot an animal, remind them to observe quietly without touching.
5. How does the animal move? Does it make a sound? Does it have legs, and if so, how many?
6. Record observations on the skill sheets. If there's time, students can share them with others—real scientists do that too!

ALL_ABOUT_PEOPLE/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM (CHILD); RAIMUND LINKE/GETTY IMAGES (RASCALLY RACCOONS)

Email the Editor: **sciencespink1@scholastic.com.**

Science Spin

Name: _____

Skill: Observing and Recording

What I Saw

Draw it here. You can use labels.

The best part was _____

_____.