

How to Discover Lichens

OBSERVE



Find lichens in your neighborhood!
What makes it a lichen?

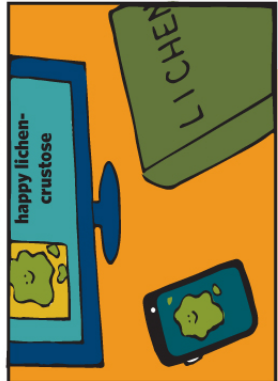
RECORD



LOCATION: NORTON HARBOR
DATE: 11/11
OBSERVATION: a smiley!

Take photos, write down observations like where you found it


COMPARE



happy lichen-crustose

Compare your lichen to lichens in guidebooks or on inaturalist.org
What growth type is it?

INVESTIGATE



What animals eat lichen here? What different colors? How do they get their energy? What is the air quality like? Can they be used for dyes? Is there anything else you've seen discovered?

Discover more about your lichen or other lichens by reading online, in a book, or asking a professional



**You just did Science!
Have Further Questions?**

Share your findings with your class!

And the cycle repeats again!

Lichen Observation Worksheet

Date: _____

OBSERVE

- Find a lichen in your neighborhood!

What clues show it is a lichen? (Hint: Lichens like rocks/trees, can come in many colors)

RECORD

- Record what you found! Take a photo, draw a picture, and write some observations
 - What is the lichen growing on? _____
 - What habitat is it growing in? _____
 - What color is it? _____
 - How big is it? _____

COMPARE

- Compare your lichen to lichens in guidebooks or on [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org) (At search bar, put location in and click on filter to type 'lichen' in the description/tag option first).
 - Is it crusty and completely stuck to the surface it is growing on? Y / N
 - Is it leaf-like, like you can peel it up? Y / N
 - Is it branch-like, like hair or spaghetti? Y / N

What growth form is your lichen? _____

INVESTIGATE

- Discover more by finding more lichens, read about lichens online or in books, and by asking questions!
- A question you came up with:

- Share with your class! You just did science!!

Do you have questions fit for an expert? Email us at ScienceHow@si.edu