Phenology is the study of the life cycle of plants and animals. Phenophases are the observable stages in these cycles, like flowers blooming, leaves falling and butterflies emerging from a cocoon.

**You’ll need:**
- pencil
- markers/crayons/colored pencils
- optional: magnifying glass, binoculars, plants and animal field guides

Here’s how:
1. Go out and observe the plants and animals in your schoolyard, park, field, or nature center.
2. Make these observations every time you go to your location (add more if you’d like):
   - Date
   - Time spent observing
   - Weather conditions (temperature, precipitation, wind)
   - Drawings/photos
   - Location of the plant(s) and/or animal(s)
   - Name of the plant(s) and/or animals(s)
3. Visit the location multiple times so that you can see as many phenophases as possible.

Watch **SciGirls** learn about phenophases on pbskids.org/scigirls. Select the **Flower Power** episode.
**Draw Some Leaves!**

- Are buds breaking open with the leaves visible?
- Are leaves fully open or unfolded?
- Have the leaves changed color?
SKETCH SOME FLOWERS!

- Are the flowers all open?
- Are there flowers and flower buds?
- Can you see pollen grains when you gently shake the flower?
FIND FRUITS!

Spring  Summer

Fall  Winter

- Are the fruits ripe?
- Has any fruit recently fallen on the ground and dropped its seeds?
SPOT SOME BIRDS!

Spring  Summer

Fall  Winter

• Are they feeding?
• What are they eating?

• Are they calling or singing?
• Are they building nests?
SKETCH SOME MAMMALS!

• Are they feeding?
• What are they eating?
• Are their young present?
INVESTIGATE SOME INSECTS!

- Are there active larvae? What are the larvae doing?
- Are there active adults? What are the adults doing?