

A WHOLE BUNCH OF QUOTES RELATED TO MAKING OBSERVATIONS

- "I see no more than you, but I have trained myself to notice what I see." —*Sherlock Holmes*
- "The world is full of obvious things which nobody by any chance ever observes." —*Sherlock Holmes*
- "Let me keep my mind on what matters, which is my work, which is mostly standing still and learning to be astonished." —*Mary Oliver*
- "A useful definition of love is sustained compassionate attention." —*John Muir Laws*
- "If you love it enough, anything will talk with you." —*George Washington Carver*
- "Names are useful and important, but there's some sort of switch that can go off in our head once we have figured out the name for a species we are observing. That's why when teaching, instead of leading with the name, I 'trail' with it." —*John Muir Laws*
- "Curiosity is not a trait that you have or don't have, but a skill that you can develop." —*John Muir Laws*
- "They drove 150 miles to the intertidal, but wouldn't go the last four feet." —*Todd Newberry*
- "There is almost never a reason not to be slow. Nature will not speed up just because you have arrived." —*Todd Newberry*
- "Naming and making lists of animals and plants is 'Glance & Go' nature watching. It might be a fun sport, but it's not natural history or science." —*Todd Newberry*
- "Without questions, natural history is a stand-off. You stare at nature and nature just stares back." —*Todd Newberry*
- "Why bother with metaphors and analogies? Because they are the threads we use to sew together the fabrics of our comprehended world." —*Todd Newberry*
- "To see the world from ever-new vantage points is one of the most basic lessons in nature observation." —*Tom Brown*
- "The only true voyage of discovery consists not in visiting strange lands, but in having new eyes." —*Marcel Proust*
- "Human beings have a strong, strong, strong tendency that if we see an animal do something that's analogous to what we do, like use a tool or answer an arithmetic question, we assume that the animal is doing it and understands the situation in the same way we do. And sometimes that's true but more often it's false." —*Alan Kamil, Center for Avian Intelligence at the University of Nebraska*
- "One way to open your eyes is to ask yourself, 'What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?'" —*Rachel Carson*
- "My world is full of holes...The way I see is a little the way a blind man taps along the street: he knows just that one spot where his cane touches down, and he hopes he can pretty much guess the rest." —*James Elkins, The Object Stares Back*
- "Much of the grand tradition of natural history falls somewhere in the valley between science and poetry." —*David Rothenberg, Why Birds Sing*
- "Hands-on experience at the critical time, not systematic knowledge, is what counts in the making of a naturalist. Better to be an untutored savage for a while, not to know the names or anatomical detail. Better to spend stretches of time just searching and dreaming." —*Edward O. Wilson*
- "Every kid starts out as a natural-born scientist, and then we beat it out of them. A few trickle through the system with their wonder and enthusiasm for science intact." —*Carl Sagan*
- "The best teachers are those who show you where to look but don't tell you what to see." —*Alexandra K. Trenfor*
- "You can observe a lot by watching." —*Yogi Berra*
- "The less people know, the more stubbornly they know it." —*Osho*

"People generally see what they look for, and hear what they listen for." —Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

"The more opinions you have, the less you see." —Wim Wenders

"In an age of acceleration, nothing is more exhilarating than to go slow. In an age of distraction, nothing is more luxurious than to pay attention. In an age of constant movement, it has never been more urgent to sit still." —Pico Iyer

"The most effective way to save the threatened and decimated natural world is to cause people to fall in love with it again, with its beauty and its reality." —Peter Scott

"Your eyes can deceive you. Don't trust them." —Obi-Wan Kenobi

"It is fortunate, perhaps, that no matter how intently one studies the hundred little dramas of the woods and meadows, one can never learn all of the salient facts about any one of them." —Aldo Leopold

"My parents were the best scientists I knew because they were always asking questions" —Mae Jemison

The more I wonder, the more I love." —Alice Walker, *The Color Purple*

"The world shows up for us, but it doesn't show up for free. We must show up, too, and bring along what knowledge and skills we've cultivated. As with a painting in a gallery, the world has no meaning--no presence to be experienced--apart from our ability to engage with it." —Alva Noë, *Varieties of Presence* (UC Berk philosopher focused on perception and consciousness)

"Explore the world. Nearly everything is really interesting if you go into it deeply enough." —Richard Feynman

"The moment one gives close attention to anything, even a blade of grass, it becomes a mysterious, awesome, indescribably magnificent world in itself." —Henry Miller

"We do not see things as they are. We see them as we are." —The Talmud

"Shh. Listen to the sounds that surround you. Notice the pitches, the volume, the timbre, the many lines of counterpoint. As light taught Monet to paint, the earth may be teaching you music." —Pete Seeger

"Before you judge others or claim any absolute truth, consider that you can see less than 1% of the electromagnetic spectrum and hear less than 1% of the acoustic spectrum." —Anonymous

"To develop a complete mind: Study the science of art; Study the art of science. Learn how to see. Realize that everything connects to everything else." —Leonardo da Vinci

"I think if you look at any facet of nature in enough detail, you find it fascinating. How could you not?" —Diane Ackerman

"When books and animals disagree, as they often do, the animal is always right." —Donald Abbott

"Every observation...is a result of a question we ask nature, and every question implies a tentative hypothesis." —Ernst Gombrich, *Art and Illusion*

"What we observe is not nature itself, but nature exposed to our method of questioning." —Werner Heisenberg, physicist