

The Instant-Camera Safari

KIDS HANDS-ON

OUTDOORS

40 MIN

The point

The three boxes are not for a worksheet — they are for the **whole real world**. Each explorer photographs whatever they like, then comes back and sorts their own **evidence**. That is field science: gather first, sort second.

Materials

- An instant camera per child (or shared) — **10 shots each**
- The outdoors — yard, garden, field, or barn
- The three category signs (printed) • tape • a wall or the floor

Steps

- 1 **Load up & set the count:** exactly **10 photos** each — of anything that catches the eye: plants, rocks, a fence, a bug, the sky, a tool.
- 2 **Head out and shoot.** No sorting yet — that is the fun part later.
- 3 **Come back & develop.** Lay every photo out where all can see.
- 4 **Sort the evidence:** put up the three signs — **Living, Natural Earth, Human-Made** — and tape each photo under the box it belongs to.
- 5 **Argue the tricky ones out loud:** a wooden fence post? A leather saddle? A puddle? The air?

Say: “You photographed the whole world this morning — and every single thing fit in three boxes.”

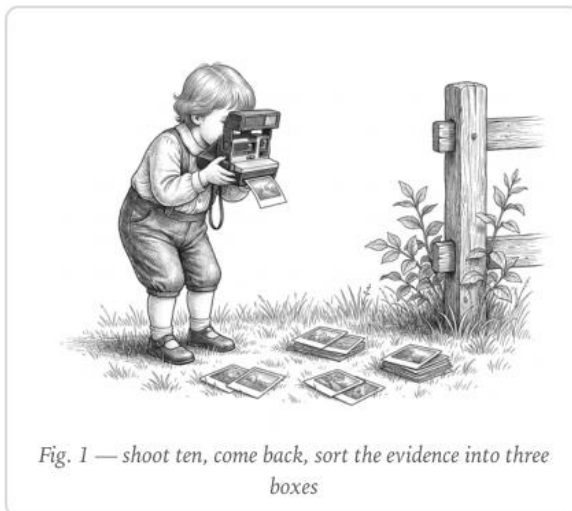


Fig. 1 — shoot ten, come back, sort the evidence into three boxes

TEACHER PREP

Charge/load the cameras and check the film the night before. Print the three category signs and bring plenty of tape. On a ranch: fences, tools, and troughs make great “human-made” finds.

What to watch for

- The **overlaps** — a fence post, a saddle, a cotton shirt were *made* by people but came from something *once alive* (the bonus idea!)
- The two everyone forgets: **air and water** are Natural Earth

EXPECTED RESULT

Every photo lands in a box. The tricky “made-from-living” finds spark the deeper idea — human-made things carry a natural beginning inside them.