Activity: Investigate the World Like an Ocean Scientist!

Adapted from Perkins School for the Blind: <https://www.perkinselearning.org/accessible-science/activities/mystery-box-making-observations-and-collecting-data>

**Preparation:**

Collect 10 everyday items such as spoons, gloves, pencils, soda cans, etc. If children with low vision would benefit from practice using their vision to collect data, put their objects in an open container, otherwise use a paper bag with only access for the hands.

**Materials:**

* Variety of items with varying sizes and textures, including a couple that make sounds
* Paper bag
* Equipment to record data, for example, electronic note takers, or Braillers, pens, and paper

**Procedure**:

1. Investigate and describe the items in your bag to another person using one-word descriptors, such as soft, bumpy, smooth, etc.
2. Record the qualitative information.
3. Once you’ve done this for each of the items in your bag, compare the items and the different words you used to describe them.
4. Bonus: Have someone else investigate the items in your bag and try to describe them. Did you use the same words? Did you use different words?

**Some descriptive adjectives:**

**Depth:** deep, full, shallow, empty, endless, infinite, steep

**Height:** tall, short, small, vast, spacious, big, large, gigantic, tiny, huge, little, enormous, petite, miniature, massive, mammoth, mighty, microscopic, medium, colossal

**Width:** wide, thick, broad, narrow, thin, slender, skinny, slim, bulky, baggy, bulging

**Weight:** heavy, light, strong, feathery, fat, stocky, stout, lean, skinny, slim, slender, crowded, trim, lithe, plump, chunky

**Shape:** circular, curved, crooked, curly, diamond-shaped, flat, jagged, oval, pointed, round, rectangular, spiral, square, triangular, angular, arched, bell-shaped, bent, coiled, cone-shaped, conical, cylindrical, dome-shaped, egg-shaped, elliptical, erect, flat, flat, forked, geodesic, heart-shaped, hexagon-shaped, hollow, level, molded, oblong, obtuse, octagonal, pentagon-shaped, pyramidal, rambling, scalloped, straight, symmetrical, tunnel-shaped, upright, amoeba-like

**Sounds:** barking, crackling, crying, dripping, echoing, fluttering, giggling, hissing, howling, jingling, knocking, laughing, moaning, neighing, popping, quarreling, ringing, roaring, sizzling, swishing, tapping, thumping, whistling, yelling

**Textures:** blunt, brittle, coarse, crumbly, dense, flexible, fluffy, glossy, gritty, jagged, mushy, pebbly, prickly, tough, wrinkly, rocky, rough, scaly, shaggy, sharp, silky, slimy, smooth, soggy, spongy, springy, squishy, thorny, velvety