Alex's Observation

Using the scientific skill of observation, Alex noticed that the sunlight moved across his desk during science class. At the beginning of class, sunlight was at the top of his table, but moved to the bottom by the end of class.

This observation prompted several questions:

- How much does the sunlight move during a class period?
- How will the pattern of movement change throughout the year?
- What does the sunlight look like at different times of the day?

To investigate these questions, we will be making long-term observations in our science journals all year.
Turn to the VERY LAST page in your journal. Title it "MAY."
Go to the next-to-last page. Title it "APRIL." Continue going backwards through journal, titling each page with the next month until you come to "September."

Fold this sheet in half along the center line. Glue it to the page before "September" so that this half of the page is on the front side of the journal page and the other half of the page is on the back side of the journal page.

Making and recording observations:

Take a minute or two and observe the sunlight in the classroom. Where does the light fall? Where does it begin and end?

Look at the sunlight in relation to something in the classroom that does not move. This will be your reference point for the rest of the year.

Several times a month you will make observations about the patterns of sunlight in the classroom.

Make qualitative observations about where the sunlight is, where it moves, how large the patterns are, whatever you observe.

Use a meter stick to make quantitative observations.

As we go through the school year, compare your observations from one month to another.

Always remember to record the data of the observations.