

Here are some ideas for outdoor classroom activities, many that span multiple grades and content areas.

1. *Nature Write*. Encourage students to sit, listen, and absorb the nature around them. With a specific focus on sensory details (smell, sight, taste, touch, hearing), ask them to write about what they notice. Sharing is optional, but often a fun way to bring the class together at the end.
2. *Chalk Math*. Instead of doing math problems on paper in a classroom, students can write them out on the pavement in chalk. Even better, they can incorporate their math problems onto common outdoor games where applicable, like hopscotch.
3. *Journal Spew*. Sometimes, we just want to write or draw about anything. Give students time and space to use a blank sheet of paper and make something happen. Once again, sharing might be a good way to summarize class at the end.
4. *Pick an Object*. Ask students to look around, pick any inanimate object, and turn it into a character in its own story. Whether they pick trees or trash cans, having students share what they selected will be fun for everyone.
5. *Measure It!* If students are learning about any unit of measure, they can take the exercise outdoors and measure pretty much anything that fits the bill, recording their responses on a capture sheet or similar.
6. *Cloud Shapes*. In this oldie but goodie activity, kids look for shapes in the clouds and use them as inspiration for anything from artwork to discussion.
7. *Rock Painting and/or Sculpture*. This activity necessitates the transport of painting supplies outdoors. We can either bring rocks with us, or if we are in a rocky area, find them outdoors and create some arty magic! Taking photos for an online gallery is optional.
8. *Outdoor Theater*. The great outdoors is a wonderful space for acting! Students can reenact history, mime vocabulary, or perform short scenes with nature as a backdrop.
9. *I Spy!* This version of the classic car game can be thematic in alignment with class content, or it can also be free-flowing. With more to see beyond the walls of the school, there is definitely more to spy!
10. *Twenty Questions*. Using class content or themes as desired topics, students can develop the “answer” either individually or in teams while others take turns guessing with up to 20 questions.
11. *DEAR Time*. Sometimes, students just want to Drop Everything And Read, and we should encourage that as much as possible. Providing them time with a self-chosen text builds literacy skills with the added benefit of a serene outdoor space to enjoy.
12. *Scavenger Hunt*. What will students look for? Whatever fits the day’s lesson. This classic game can be aligned to whatever the learning outcome is!
13. *Circle Talk*. Use a field or blacktop space to seat kids in a circle for a class discussion on any topic. The circle encourages everyone to look at one another and the conversation will flow more freely as a result.

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