

Create a simple pattern. You might clap your hands, tap your desk or stomp your feet with a certain regular pattern. Ask the students to follow the same pattern. Once everyone has the hang of it, stop and have a short discussion.

Ask if anyone knows what it was that the class just did. If no one comes up with it, explain that it is a *pattern*.

After practicing some simple patterns, create some that are more complicated. For example, instead of repeating a pattern of hand claps, you might add to the pattern in different ways: (i.e. you might clap, tap your desk and stomp your feet and then repeat).

Explain that patterns occur in many different places in nature and in the human made world. Ask for some examples of repeating patterns they are familiar with. Some examples are: *daily patterns of sunrise and sunset, daily patterns of recess, weekend routines, yearly patterns.*

Ask volunteers to come up in front of the class and generate a pattern. Have the student demonstrate the pattern and then see if the class can follow it.

Pass out a **Patterns Tool worksheet** to each detective and explain that as nature detectives they will be looking at patterns that occur in nature in many different places.

MATERIALS:

*Patterns tool worksheets