Scientists’ Research Notebooks

You are going to be observing images from several famous scientists’ research notebooks - the notebook used to keep track of ideas, observations and experiments as she/he worked. With your group, discuss what you notice about these notebooks. Do not describe the actual work the scientist did, but ways in which she/he took notes and organized information.

Below is a list of a few things you might notice, but be sure to generate more observations than just these:

- What does the page look like?
- Does the scientist write down observations only, or interpretations of observations?
- Are there procedures described?
- What similarities do you see between the notebooks? How are they different?
- How do these famous scientists’ research notebooks compare to lab notebooks you have kept in other science classes?
- What is a scientist’s research notebook for?