

Nature Passport

Lesson Idea: Micro Hike

Activity Summary

Shrink your students down to the size of a bug and send them off on a miniature hike across the school grounds. Students take on a different perspective as they slow down and observe smaller elements in the landscape and ecology. Use this activity in a **Science** investigation like a Bio Blitz of the natural inhabitants of the school grounds, or in an imaginative story writing project in the **English** curriculum.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Create an informal transect through a chosen environment
- Observe small natural items and features with natural eyesight or a magnifying glass
- Reflect on how observation changes with a different perspective
- Highlight the types of small creatures that live in the school grounds

Introduce the Activity

1. Ask students to name the smallest creature they have seen in the school grounds.
2. Invite students to explain what it would be like for that creature to walk across the oval or another part of the school grounds.
3. Organise lengths of string or rope for each small group. The students could estimate the length of 1 metre (3 feet) using their bodies or accurately measure using a large ruler or measuring tape.
4. Distribute magnifying glasses if available.

Lesson Reflection

1. Create a class list of some of the terrain, plants and animals that the students observed. You could write it on a 3 column chart, with a column for each of the above observations.
2. Invite students to share their quiz answers to the question: "Does pretending you are tiny change the way you look at the world?"
3. Brainstorm other ways to imagine a different viewpoint and how you would try them out.

Extension Ideas

- Estimate how many blades of grass an ant will need to pass if it walks across the oval. Start by counting blades of grass along the Micro Hike string line, then multiply by the number of string lines it would take to cross the oval.
- Estimate how many bugs live on the school oval through counting then multiplying the number of bugs in a metre square.

- Write a story of a bug's journey across the school grounds. What terrain does it pass through and who does it meet?
- Use field guides, online keys or image searches to identify insects found on the Micro Hike.
- Use the Safari feature of the Nature Passport App to investigate and record small animals and insects found around the school.