

'My Outdoor Classroom' Lesson Plan

Science

- Science involves observing, asking questions about, and describing changes in objects and events (ACSHE013)
- Engage in discussions about observations and represent ideas (AC SIS233)
- 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

Elaborate on, extend and integrate this activity with other learning where possible.

Micro Hike

Lower Primary Activity 5

Resources:

- Printed 'My Outdoor Classroom' Nature Passport booklets
- String, thin rope, or yarn
- Scissors
- Magnifying glass (optional)

Class :

Date :

Weather :

Introduction

You don't need to go on a long journey to discover something new. Forget a one kilometre hike, try a one metre hike instead!

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 (finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time) of the natural inhabitants of the school grounds, or in an imaginative story writing project in the English curriculum.

Before You Head Out



Consider using a camera or the Nature Passport App to take photos and record the activity (See the Reflection/Discussion section for further details).

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

Micro Hike Activity Steps

- 1 Go into the schoolyard with one metre of string for each hiker or pair of hikers. This will be your hiking trail.
- 2 Imagine you've shrunk! You are now the size of a thumbnail.
- 3 Lay down your trail and begin your hike at one end of the string, getting close and looking at every detail.
- 4 Hike slowly! Remember you are only the size of a thumbnail and have very short legs.
- 5 Record your discoveries. What would you say if you were a tiny, thumbnail-sized person seeing the trail for the first time?
- 6 Capture your favourite discoveries on the trail, through photographs or drawings.
- 7 Does pretending you are tiny change the way you look at the world? In what ways did the journey change your perspective?



You can download the free **Nature Passport** app on both the **App Store** and **Google Play Store** to complete this activity and many more!

Visit the website at www.naturepassport.org, where you'll find lots of useful information for families and teachers on how best to use Nature Passport.

Reflection/Discussion

- 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.
- Invite students to share their responses to the question: "Does pretending you are tiny change the way you look at the world?"
- Brainstorm other ways to imagine a different viewpoint and how you would try them out.

Elaboration/Extension Ideas

- Make up a story of a bug's journey across the school grounds. What terrain does it pass through and whom does it meet?



