

OUTDOORS ✿ GRADES 2-6 ✿ FALL, SPRING ✿ ACTIVITY



Little Munchkins

DESCRIPTION

In this outdoor activity, students work in pairs using careful observation skills as they pretend they are miniature people on a 100-inch (2.54 m) hike.

OBJECTIVE

To develop observation and recording skills.

MATERIALS

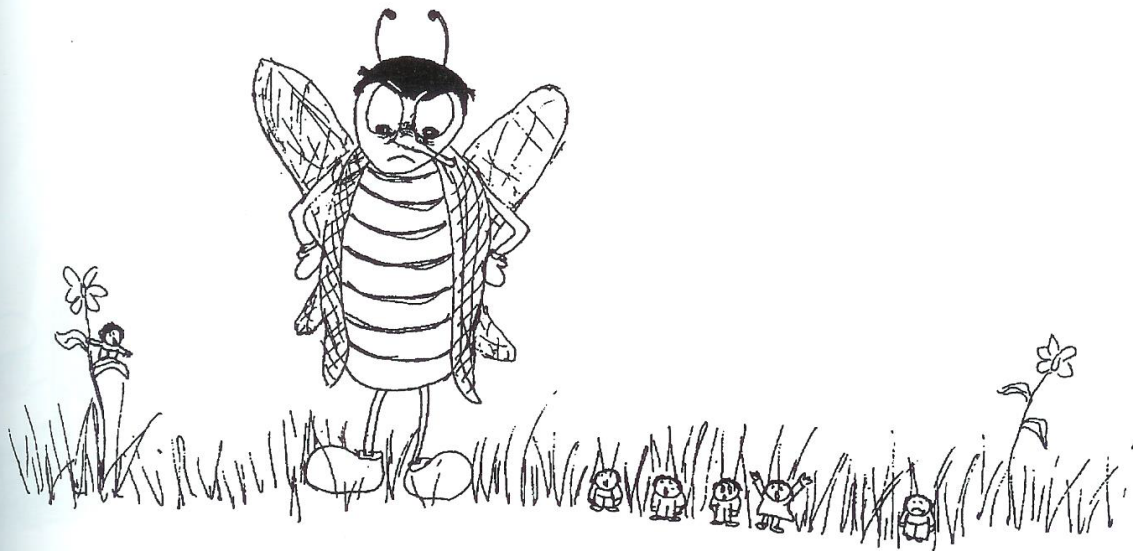
- ✿ string
- ✿ science journals
- ✿ hand lenses

PREPARATION

Cut one piece of string 100 inches (2.54 m) long for each pair of students.

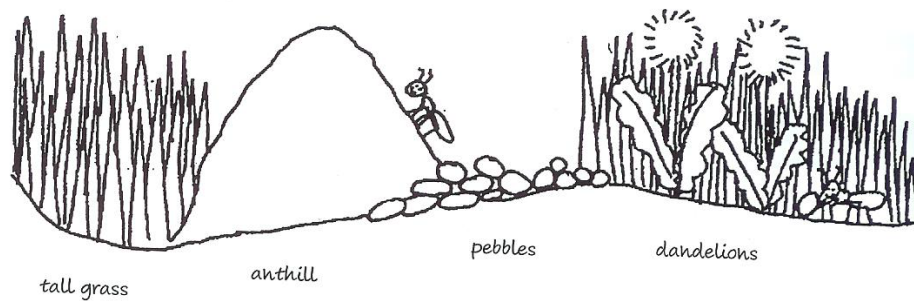
CLASS DISCUSSION

Have you ever imagined that you were very small? What would it be like to take a hike through the garden if you were only as tall as your thumb? What would the plants look like? What would rocks and sticks look like? Would you notice things that you don't notice now?



ACTION

1. Divide the class into pairs and go to the garden and find a place that might seem like a forest to little munchkins.
2. Give each pair of students a piece of string and tell them they are now little munchkins and that they are going to take a hike that is as long as their piece of string.
3. Have each pair place the string in a straight line or in a winding curve. Then have them follow the string, carefully recording everything that lies along the path. Have them look closely at the plants on the route to find differences in leaf shapes, edges, textures, and colors.
4. Have each pair of students decide how they want to record what they find on their hike. Have them record in their journals the different kinds of plants they find and how many of each one. Suggest that they draw pictures of the different things they see. Have them describe any other creatures they encounter and describe the texture of the soil. Remind students of their point of view: they are less than 2 inches (5 cm) tall. Even tiny bugs are going to seem huge to a munchkin.
5. When the hikes are completed, have three teams join together and share their findings, identifying similarities and differences.

**WRAP UP**

Give an example of a texture found on your hike. What did it feel like to look closely at a small area? What did you observe and record?