

Micro Hike

Description: Inspired by Joseph Cornell's activity in *Sharing Nature with Children*, students will practice their close looking skills by taking a "hike" and making observations along a string.



Grade Range (suggested): 3-5

Materials:

- 3 or 4 foot piece of string
- Pencil
- Micro Hike data sheet
- [Micro Hike How To Video](#)

ENGAGE

1. Explain to students that they will be going on a nature hike, but it won't be like others they may have been on before. Instead, they will imagine that they are shrinking down to the size of an ant (or another bug) to see what the world is like for them!

PREPARE TO EXPLORE

2. Tell students that they will be going on a hike along the length of a string. Along the way, they should make observations about what they see, hear, smell, or feel. Explain that they will be given paper to record these observations in the form of a map.

EXPLORE

3. Have students select a spot to take their hike and have them share some initial observations, describing the kinds of things they see there.
4. Then, instruct students to put their string along the ground on that spot. Remind them that we are on a micro hike, so they should imagine that they are the size of an ant (or another very small animal). Tell students to keep their eyes close to the ground. You could set a visual boundary, like no higher than their knees, if you think it will help to focus student observations.
5. Give students time to 'hike' along their string, looking no more than 3 feet to the left or right of the string, and making and recording their observations of the area.

REFLECT and SHARE

6. Have students reflect on the interactions between living and non-living things, or two living things that they might see in the area they were observing. For example, grass growing out of the soil.
7. Then, have students share their maps and interaction brainstorm with the class (if possible) or with someone at home.

Extensions and Variations:

- Have students go on a micro-hike in different areas or at different times of day to do some comparing and contrasting!

Make your micro hike map here! Use words and pictures to show what you observed.



What interactions might we see here between two living things? Between a non-living thing and a living thing?



¡Haz tu mapa de micro caminata aquí! Use palabras e imágenes para mostrar lo que observó.



¿Qué interacciones podemos ver entre dos seres vivos? ¿Entre un ser vivo y una cosa que no esta viva?



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