

## Micro-hiking

### ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Students make observations while "hiking" by crawling for a short distance, keeping their heads no more than a foot above the ground.

### CONCEPTS TO BE LEARNED

1. Careful and close observation can reveal things that we don't normally notice.

### STANDARDS ADDRESSED

#### Focus Standards:

- Grade 4: Life Sciences S.S. 3: Living organisms depend on one another and their environment.  
Science Investigation and Experimentation S.S. 6: Students ask meaningful questions and conduct careful investigations.
- Grade 5: Life Sciences S.S. 2: Plants and animals have structures for various life processes.  
Science Investigation and Experimentation S.S. 6: Students ask meaningful questions and conduct careful investigations.
- Grade 6: Ecology (Life Sciences) 5: S.S. Organisms exchange energy and nutrients among themselves and with the environment. Science Investigation and Experimentation S.S. 7: Students ask meaningful questions and conduct careful investigations.
- Grade 7: Life Science...Evolution 3.a: Biological evolution accounts for diversity. Life Science...Structure and Function in Living Systems S.S. 5: Anatomy and physiology  
Science Investigation and Experimentation S.S. 7: Students ask meaningful questions and conduct careful investigations.

### ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

1. Students will increase their ability to observe and describe their observations.
2. Students will observe things that they have not previously noticed.

### GROUPING

Teams of two

### TIME

10-30 minutes

### MATERIALS: for each team of two students:

- 5' of string
- Clipboard, paper, pencil
- Optional: hand magnifier

### **TEACHER PREPARATION**

1. Obtain the materials above.
2. While on a pre-trip visit to the site, find an area where students can crawl along the ground safely.

### **PROCEDURE**

1. Give each team the materials.
2. Tell them to spread their strings along the ground (or across a log, on a tree, over a rock, or?) in such a way that they won't interfere with other groups. Encourage them to look for things that they have never before noticed.
3. One student crawls along the ground (either on "all fours" or on their belly), keeping his or her head no more than 1 foot above the ground. As the student crawls, he or she describes what is seen.
4. The second student records the observations of the first. Of course, the second student is encouraged to check out for himself/herself what the first student describes.
5. After the first student has "hiked" the string, the students place the string in another area and trade roles.

### **VARIATIONS, ADAPTATIONS, DIFFERENTIATION**

1. Rather than "hiking" along a string, students can explore a small area determined by tossing a loop of string.

### **ASSESSMENT**

1. Do students look closely and describe accurately?

### **REFERENCES AND RESOURCES**

Cornell, Joseph: *Sharing Nature with Children*