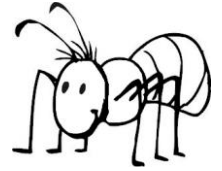


AN INSECT'S MICRO JOURNEY



Mark out your own miniature route from an insect's point of view

For this activity, you have to get low to the ground and imagine that you are an insect trying to make a crawling route through grass, twigs, fallen leaves and lumps of earth.

Choose what insect you will be for this activity. The insect will only crawl, not fly, so something like an ant, caterpillar or beetle might be a good choice,

You will need:

- String or wool a few metres long.
- Sellotape (or masking tape), twigs (or other short, thin lengths of wood) and a pen, to create small flags for landmarks.

Activity

1. Take a length of string.
2. Lay the string out across a small stretch of varied terrain.
3. Get down low to the ground and examine the 'route' that the string takes from an insect's point of view. Look for varied natural landscape, such as beneath a hedgerow or a patch of longer grass.
4. Interesting points along the route should be marked with short twigs with attached labels. Try to make-up interesting labels to describe each point (e.g. "big twig obstacle" or "dead leaf shelter").

Optional:

- You could take photos (on a camera, tablet or mobile phone) to try to get an image of what things might look like from an insect's perspective.
- A magnifying glass might help give you a better idea of what the ground looks like to an insect.

This exercise helps children:

- to learn about nature and natural habitats;
- consider routes and mapping (in miniature); and
- develop literacy skills by stimulating the use of descriptive language and imaginative place naming.

Older pupils could write their own guided tour or even record an audio tour.

