

Fun with Microscopes

Ages: Grades 5-8

Time: 1 hour

No. of participants: 9-12

No. of additional adults: 2 (one/microscope)

Required supplies:

- All microscopes/stereoscopes from NIC
- Glass Slides
- Previously collected items to view under the scopes (5/scope)
- Close-Up identification poster
- “Can you guess what this is?” activity sheets
- Crayons, markers, and/or colored pencils

Objective: To use microscopes to view natural objects. To learn more about these objects by viewing them more closely.

Lesson Plan Procedures

**Prior to lesson - Set up the microscopes, 1/table, with the 5 items to be viewed at each station.*

1. Introduction:

- a. Show the students a poster of items viewed close up and ask them to make guesses at what the items might be.
- b. Explain that they will be viewing common things found in the Drift Creek forest under the microscopes and, like the photographs we were just looking at, it may be hard to believe what you see!
- c. Divide the group into 3 groups - 1/microscope. (If possible, station 1 adult/microscope.)

2. Activity Instructions:

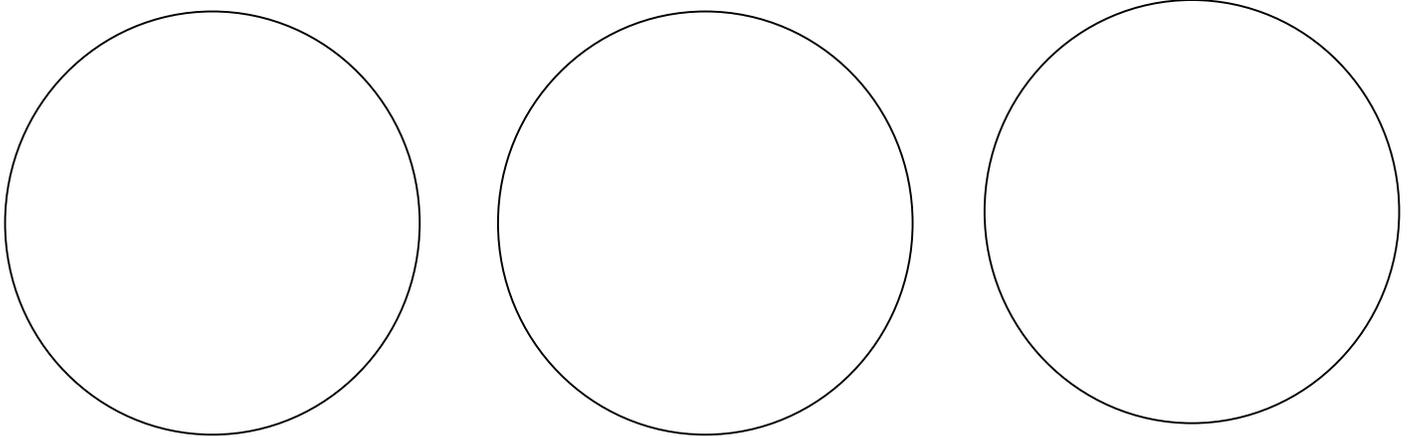
- a. Have the students go through and look at their 5 items under the microscope at their station. The adult there should be sharing information about what they are seeing with them as they do this.
- b. Once each student has gotten the chance to look at each item at his/her station, have the groups move to a new station and repeat the process. Do this rotation one more time until all of the students have viewed each item at each station.

3. Conclusion:

- a. After this, send the students to a table where the activity sheets and supplies are waiting.
- b. Instruct the students to come up with their own version of the poster on the “Can you guess what this is?” activity sheets.

Can you guess what this is?

Now you've seen many items under the microscopes – pick out three of those items and draw what they looked like through the lens. Then ask friends or family members if they can guess what the items are. Write the answers on the back so you don't forget!



Can you guess what this is?

Now you've seen many items under the microscopes – pick out three of those items and draw what they looked like through the lens. Then ask friends or family members if they can guess what the items are. Write the answers on the back so you don't forget!

