

Micro Journey

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

5-9

Mapping and Navigation



Background

This is an engaging hook for a **geography** lesson in which children consider routes and **mapping** in miniature. They are challenged to think about the detail that they see, the panoramic views, the paths, climbs and tunnels that they may be travelling through all from the perspective of an ant.

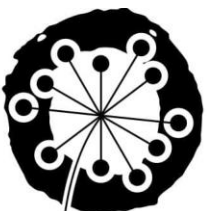
The activity can also support **literacy** by stimulating the use of descriptive **language** and imaginative place naming. Older pupils could **write** their own guided tour or even record an audio tour as a **speaking and listening** extension.

Equipment

- String, or wool a few metres long
- Masking tape and a pen to create small flags for landmarks
- A varied natural landscape such as beneath a hedgerow or a patch of longer grass
- A camera or tablet and mirrors/magnifying glasses (optional)

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 ant's point of view.
4. Interesting points can be marked with short twigs and masking tape labels.
5. Mirrors or magnifying glasses can give a different perspective and cameras or tablets used to take macro-pictures.



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