



SUPERSTAR

Under Your Feet

Organiser's Card



About the activity

This activity is designed to get children thinking creatively about nature.

Stella Storyteller is struggling for inspiration for her latest story book.

It's the story of two special children who wake up one morning and find themselves the size of ants. Can the children help to find a challenge for the intrepid duo?

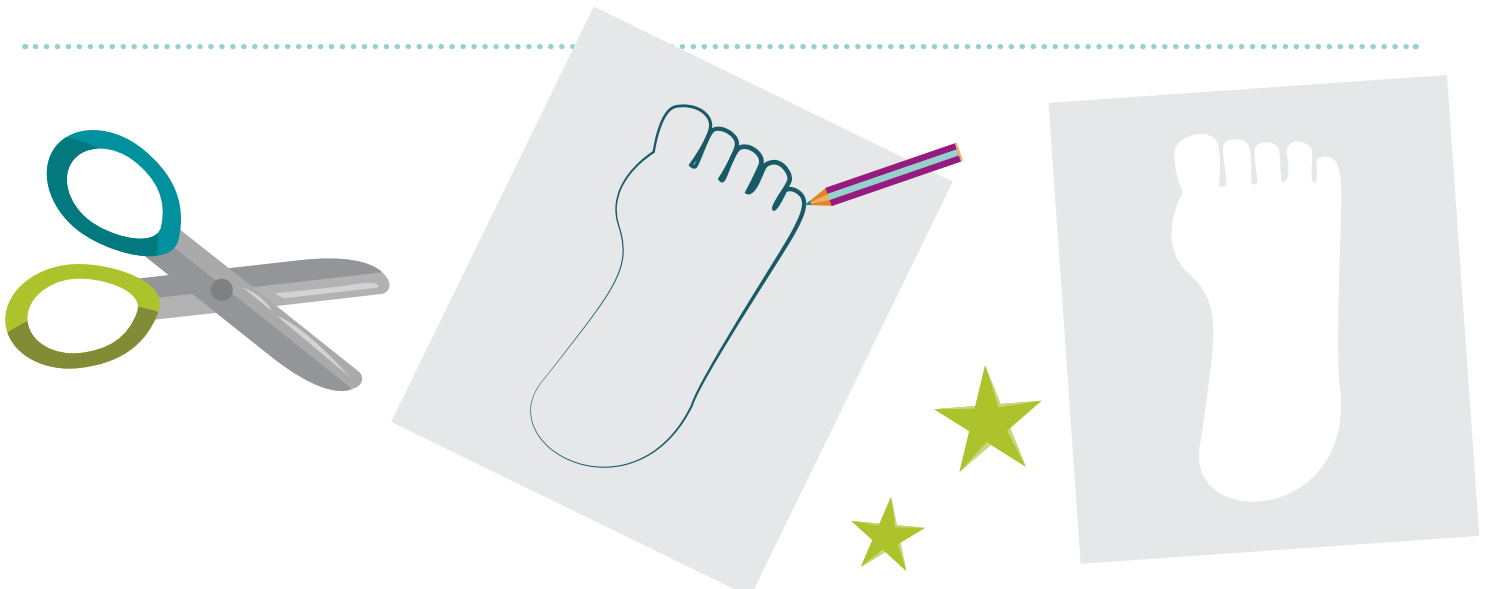
Through this activity you will support your group to:

- Think about the world around them from a different perspective
- Investigate and explore what living things they can find outdoors
- Record their thoughts and ideas and present them to share with the group



Kit list

- Cut out 'feet' for children to record their results on - you might want to provide a template as children's feet are usually too small
- Cut out 'holes' for children to place on the ground and look through
- Hand held magnifiers
- Identification charts or books
- Drawing materials - thin coloured markers or pencils etc.
- Digital camera (optional)



What to do

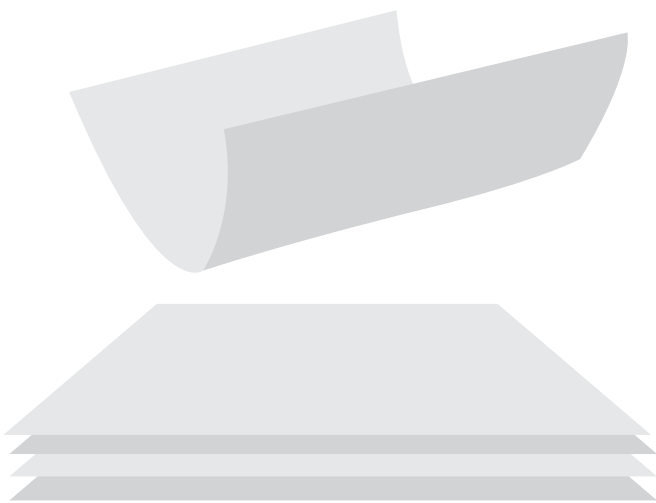
1. Read the activity card to familiarise yourself with the activity.
2. Check the kit list to ensure you have the necessary resources.
3. Set the scene by discussing the news story.
4. Give children time to talk about what it might be like to be so tiny. Encourage them to think about what they might encounter.
5. Help them to create their cut out 'feet' if they are struggling.
6. Remind them of safety issues before you go outside.
7. Try to look in different places outdoors to find a range of interesting living things – remember to get children to include plants as well as animals and anything else that is interesting.
8. You might want to look at one place together to encourage children to look very closely.
9. If there is time, record a couple of places before returning indoors.
10. When they return indoors, encourage children to find out more about what they have seen and to think about the story.
11. Give children time to share their ideas. You could put all the 'feet' on display. Can people tell where each 'foot' was drawn?
12. They could write the story for Stella or draw pictures of what it might be like to be so small living in these places.
13. There are extra challenges on the activity card. These can be used if there is spare time or if children want to try out more ideas at home and earn a bonus sticker.



Things to think about

Children may need to be encouraged to look closely. You may wish to create an example of what their filled in 'feet' might look like when they are finished. You should draw everything you can see including pebbles, sticks, the texture of tree bark or soil, spiders' webs etc.

Try to encourage children to include details of the animals, plants etc. in their stories rather than just writing about battles with giants!



Take it further

There is a wide range of things to be found under your feet, even in areas that look fairly barren. The focus of this activity is to get children to be aware of this range of living things. It also helps them to get some sense of where living things are found by studying and comparing the small environments enclosed within the foot shape. You could use PE or maths sorting hoops to focus on a small area. However, children find using the cut out feet more engaging.

Do not worry if you cannot identify everything that is found. Looking closely and describing and drawing what has been seen are far more important than naming things.

Keywords

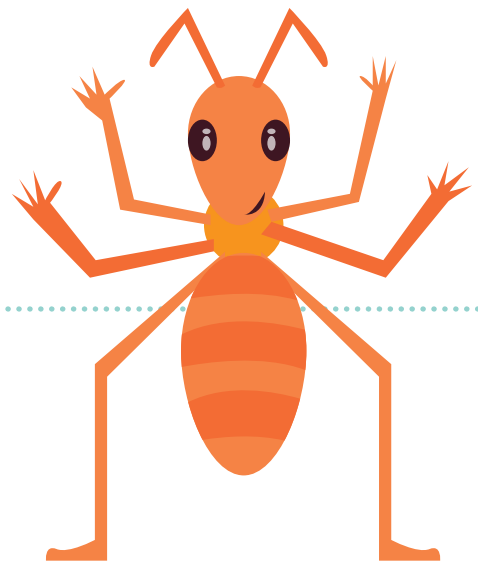
- Outdoors
- Nature
- Insects
- Challenge
- Storytelling

Watch out!

Follow the organisation's safety code for working outdoors. Check the area first to look for dangerous plants or other items such as broken glass, sharp stones, etc. Avoid areas regularly used by dogs.

Ensure that animals are treated with care.

Wash hands carefully after the activity outside.





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Activity Card

You've come across a news article in the Startown News:

NEWS



Storyteller's tiny dilemma
Good news! Children's writer, Stella Storyteller, is writing her latest book. It's the story of two special children who wake up one morning and find themselves the size of ants. They go on a journey and encounter all sorts of difficulties because of their size. But Stella is stuck for ideas! What would create a challenge for our intrepid duo? Can you help?



Your challenge

Find out what's under your feet and create one of the adventures to go in Stella Storyteller's new book.

Discuss

What animals, plants and other tiny things might you find if you look closely under your feet?

What would it be like if you were very small?

What would you find if you climbed a tree?



Getting started

Cut a big foot shape out of a piece of card. Keep the cut out foot and the hole that's left.

Place the cut out hole on a patch of ground and look carefully at what you find there.

Then record what you see by drawing on the cut out foot. Include all the plants and animals and anything else you see such as rocks, twigs and spiders' webs.

You can place the cut out hole in another place such as a field, a tree trunk or bare soil and record the results on the back of the cut out foot.

Test your ideas

You are not going to bring any living things indoors, so you need to make sure you record very carefully what you see. Use a magnifier to help you. You could take digital photographs or look things up using identification keys or books.

Share your ideas

Talk about what you have found. Then share your ideas for one of the adventures to go in Stella Storyteller's book.

Extra things to do

Think about other places where you could look under your feet. What do you find?

Will you find different things under your feet each day?

How can you encourage more living things into your garden or school grounds?

