



Micro Exploration



What is the smallest creature you have seen in your backyard or neighborhood park? How would the world look if you were tiny?

Create a Micro Transect in your backyard. A transect is a path along which scientists count and record species of study. Observe the small natural features and creatures along your transect. Reflect how your observations change with different a perspective.

Directions:

- Materials: String or sticks to mark your transect line. Magnifying glass (optional).
- Lay out a length of string or sticks somewhere in your backyard or park. You can use a ruler or measure tape to make a 3 foot transect line. If you don't have something to measure with, you can lie down and make the line the length of your body.
- Imagine the transect line is your hiking trail and that you have shrunk down to the size of an ant! Lay on the ground and begin to explore your transect. Get close and explore every detail. Explore slowly!
- Record your discoveries in the boxes below. Write, draw, or photograph what you find.
- Use field guides or iNaturalist app to help you identify what you find.
- Does pretending you are tiny change the way you explore the world?
- How many blades of grass would an ant need to cross to get from the start to end of your transect?
- Draw a picture of what the world looks like to tiny creature.



Terrain (Examples: soil, rocks, water)	Plants (Examples: grass, moss, ferns, seeds)	Animals (Examples: insects, worms)