

The Adventures of Mighty Mole (and of Mighty Kids)

(Arts & Crafts, Indoor & Outdoor Activity, Discovery)



Introduction

In the book *Mighty Mole and Super Soil*, author Mary Quattlebaum introduces children to an underground ecosystem. What creatures live in the ground and how do they help make the soil healthy? These underground happenings are largely invisible to humans but vital to the health of the planet. In this activity, children focus on the mole and dramatize, draw, and write about her experience.

Materials Needed

- ◆ The book *Mighty Mole and Super Soil*
- ◆ Writing and/or drawing paper, 1 sheet per student
- ◆ Colored markers or crayons, enough for all students

Common Core Standards (ELA K-3)

- ◆ Reading: Literature
 - Key Ideas and Details K.1, 1.1, 2.1
 - Craft and Structure K.7, 1.7, 2.7
- ◆ Writing
 - Text Types and Purposes K.3, 1.3, 2.3, 3.3

Procedure

1. Read aloud the book. Ask children to find the mole in every picture in the book. What is she doing? How does she move? What body parts allow her to move this way? What does she eat?
2. What are her "mighty" traits? What do they help her to do?
3. If you could have one of these traits, as a human, what would you choose?
4. Invite children to write and illustrate a story about themselves with their one mighty trait. What would they do? How would their lives be different?
5. Have children share some of the stories and then ask them: even with this mighty trait, how are their lives (and adventures) different from Mighty Mole's?

Next Generation Science Standards (DCI K-3)

- ◆ Life Science
 - LS1 From Molecules to Organisms: Structure and Function
 - LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
 - LS4 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

Nature Extensions

Mighty Mole is an eastern or common mole. There are six kinds of moles in North America. One type, the Star-nosed Mole, lives both in the water and the ground and has 22 tentacles around its snout. Show a photo from a book or the Internet of the Star-nosed Mole. How did it get its name? How do those nose tentacles help it to survive?

Some people don't like the bumps that mole tunnels make in their yards and gardens. They think that moles eat their plants. They trap or kill moles. Be a mole and list all the ways that you help the environment. Write a letter to an angry person and describe the benefits of moles and persuade him or her not to harm you.

Additional Resources

- ◆ Mole Movement

Moles dig with a swimming movement and gobble earthworms, as shown in this science video: <http://news.sciencemag.org/sifter/2014/02/video-moles-swim-through-the-earth>