



# Observation Ring

## Introduction

In the book, *Under One Rock: Bugs, Slugs, and Other Ughs*, author Tony Fredericks introduces children to the mini-habitat of creatures that reside in, under and around a rock. In this activity, students will observe a different mini-habitat and create field notes about the tiny creatures that inhabit it.

## Materials Needed

- ◆ Four sharpened pencils
- ◆ String
- ◆ Magnifying lens

## Key Concepts

- ◆ Students answering questions using scientific resources combined with observations.
- ◆ Plan and conduct a simple systematic observation or investigation.
- ◆ Use knowledge and evidence to formulate explanation.

For standards correlation please see our website.

## Procedure

1. Go outside and select a section of grassy area (part of a yard, lawn or playground.)
2. Push four sharpened pencils into the soil in a one-foot square pattern.
3. Tie string around the pencils, making a miniature "boxing ring" on the ground.
4. Get on your hands and knees and look closely inside the square.
5. If you look carefully enough and long enough you'll begin to see many different critters. You may want to keep some "Field Notes" of all the different types of animals you see inside the ring. Note the movements, habits, or behaviors of any animals (ants, grasshoppers, caterpillars, worms) as they travel (jump, crawl, slither) through the ring. You might want to visit your "ring" frequently over a period of several weeks.

## Nature Connections

- ◆ Ask students to match the habitat with the critter:

Flower	Earthworm
Pond	Cricket
Dirt	Caterpillar
Leaves	Water Bug
Rocks	Bee

- ◆ Create your own observable ant farm from an old fish tank. Fill it with dirt, capture ants using honey as bait, then be sure to put in some food such as small insects or meal worms to keep the ants healthy.

## Additional Resources

### Make Pet Rock Animals

<http://familycrafts.about.com/od/stoneandrock/ss/petrocks.htm>

### Ladybug Rocks

<http://crafts.kaboose.com/earth-ladybug-rocks.html>

### Create Your Own Rock Creature

<http://www.teaching-tiny-tots.com/toddler-activities-pet-rock.html>

### Martha Stewart Rock Animals

<http://www.marthastewart.com/272787/rock-animals>

