

Creating a Miniature Forest

Activity Information

Level: primary/Junior

Subject: science, geography

Skills: observation, assigning values, mapping, oral presentation skills

Duration: 1.5 to 2 hours

Group: pairs

Setting: outdoors — forest, woodlot or school yard

Materials: For each pair: clipboard, paper, pencil, magnifying lens, and *microworld kit*: a resealable bag with 4 small, numbered flags, 2m piece of string with a stick tied to one end, small card for their sign.

Preparation: Make microworld kits for each pair of students.

Summary

Students will explore the diversity of a natural area at a micro level, identifying its special features.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- explore the diversity of life in a natural area, forest or green space
- learn mapping techniques
- be introduced to the basic concept of a Model Forest

From Long Beach Model Forest Rainforest Interpretive Centre.



1. Use the map accompanying this booklet, if you have not already done so, to introduce students to the Model Forests and their locations across Canada.

2. Each pair receives a microworld kit and finds an interesting patch of forest floor. They use the stick and string to scribe the circular border of their microworld — their own miniature Model Forest. Ask them to choose four [or more] wonderful things in their microworld and mark them with their flags. They should then name their miniature Model Forest and write it on a cardboard sign.

3. Ask the students to observe their miniature forest quietly for 5 minutes. They may make a variety of observations about **animals** [remember, insects are animals!], **climate** [breezes, what grows in areas that receive lots of sun or only a little sun], or **lifecycles** [seeds? flowers?] and so on.

4. After they have laid out their forest, identified its main features and observed it, they should then do a sketch map identifying the main features [plants, areas with water, rocks, trails] of their forest and providing a key to each of the **wonders** they have found within it.

5. **Tour the Model Forest.** When everyone is ready, do a tour of their miniature Model Forests. Each team introduces their Model Forest, explains its special features and briefly describes their observations.

Tours: On-the-Ground or via the Internet



If you are interested in touring Canada's forests and forest industries firsthand here are some ideas of who to contact:

For **real-life** tours:

- provincial forestry association or the Canadian Forestry Association
- local offices of government agency responsible for forests
- local Model Forest
 - local forest company, paper or lumber mill
 - national or provincial park or related organizations
 - local outdoor education centre
 - local environment or naturalists groups with an interest in forests

For **virtual** tours:

- check out this website for any of the above
- www.cppa.org/english/wood/tours.htm

