ACTIVITY 1: SHRUNKEN EXPEDITION

25 MIN. | SIT SPOT

What do you need?

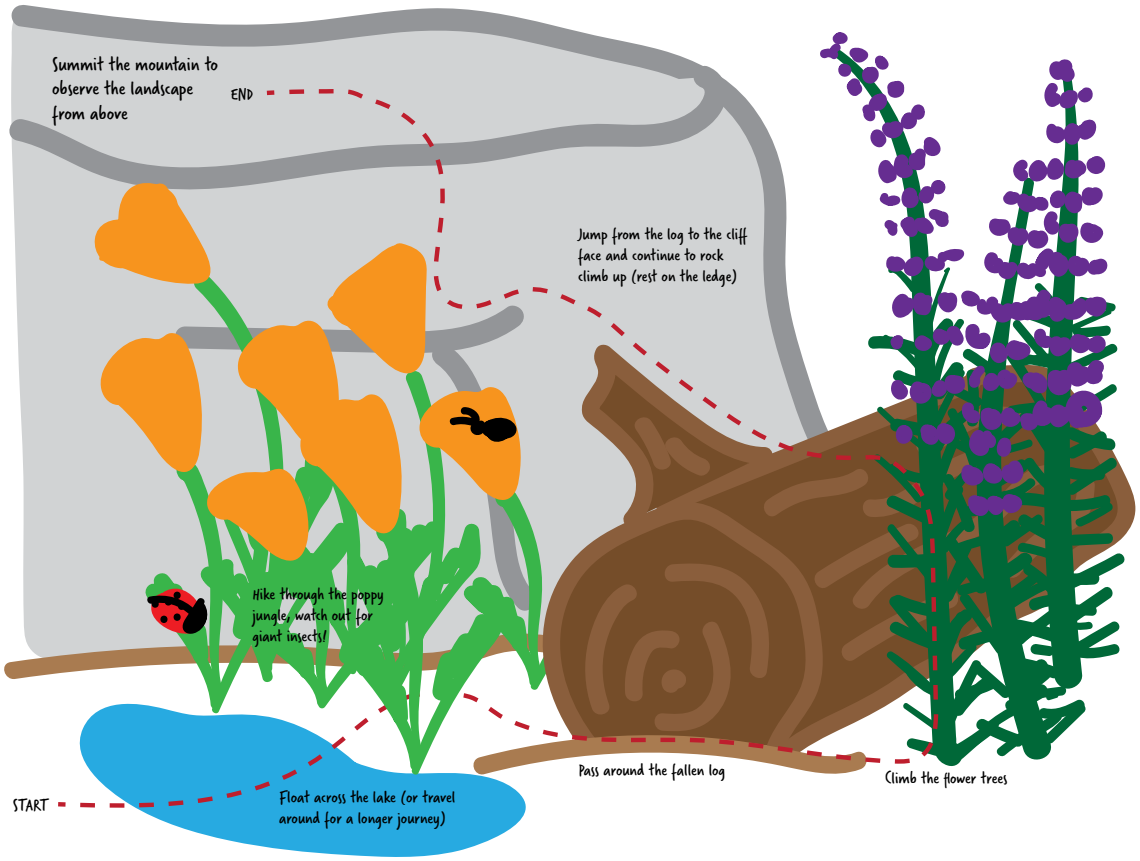
- String
- Drawing materials
- Magnifying glass

Scientists use tools to make observations, like a magnifying glass to make small things look bigger or a telescope to make faraway things look closer. Scientists write down what they observe. Recording details help you remember what you saw (and share your findings with others) . In this activity, you'll practice your science observation skills and learn how to make your findings easy for your friends and family to understand.

Today's mission is to use scientific tools to observe your sit spot and create an expedition map.

Imagine scientists have invented a machine that shrinks humans to the size of ants. Think about how small an ant would look in the palm of your hand. Now imagine that ant as a scientist who is ready to make discoveries.

These tiny ant-sized scientists are going to investigate what the world is like from an ant's point of view. Your job is to create a map for the scientist to follow. Find a good research location at your sit spot for the scientists to study. Remember, when you're a scientist that is the size of an ant, things that are small will look huge! A tiny puddle could seem like a vast ocean, a rock might look like a mountain, and a flower would be as big as a tree.



1. At the location you've chosen, use string to lay a path for the scientists to follow. Use a magnifying lens to help you look closely at the things along the string. What would the tiny scientist think of all these things they see?

2. Start at the beginning of the string and draw a map that shows the path in detail. For example, scientists may need to climb up a cliff which is actually a small rock, swim across a lake which is just a drop of water, or traverse a great valley which is a crack in the pavement.

3. Label any areas where the scientist may need help. Draw the tools that would help them. Would they use a boat to cross a lake they come across? Pretend they have all the equipment and tools they need to be safe along their journey.

4. Clearly label all the tools and parts of the map so that another scientist can use the map without your help.

DRAW YOUR MAP

Record Your Ideas: What were the obstacles for your tiny scientist on the map? What tools helped them on their journey?