



Minibeasts and Leaves

Journey beneath the stones

Age: 7-14

Topic: Creative writing

Time: 1 hour

● What should learners already know?

- There is a whole ecosystem beneath stones.

● What equipment will I need?

- Literacy topic books and writing materials.

● How will learners explore this?

1. Encourage children to plan a story: a shrink ray has hit the school, and they have been shrunk to the size of an ant! The first thing they do is go and run underneath some stones to see what is down there. Who do they meet?
2. Get children to create a plan table in their literacy topic books, detailing the elements (in just one or two bullet points) of the story:
 - Story setting: what does it look, smell and feel like beneath the rocks?
 - Story characters: worms, woodlice, beetles, ants
 - Story opening
 - Story conflict
 - Story resolution
 - Story ending
3. Encourage them to be as creative as possible; what are the minibeasts that they see down there doing? Do you speak to them, or watch on?
4. Once they have written this plan, they are ready to write their story! Make sure they keep it fairly short (maybe two pages) so that they can share their story with other children.

● How can we show the learning?

- Use this exercise to reflect on what makes good storytelling and writing.
- Ask children to explain how they made their story exciting, and how they made all their story characters engaging.
- Why did we need to create the story plan first? So that the story will be logical and make sense to whoever is reading it!
- Which minibeasts did children meet down there?



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