

FOCUS IN

ACTIVITY:

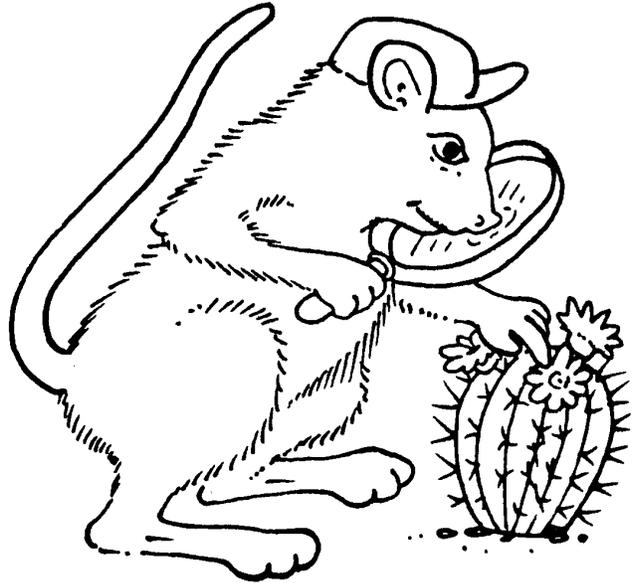
Students have the opportunity to take a close-up look at the desert as they use a variety of hand lenses and color sticks. They may sketch their discoveries.

LOCATION:

CESC staff will inform you of the location of the activity.

EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:

pencils
clipboards
6 pouches, each containing:
 1 set of color sticks
 1 magnifying glass
 1 hand lens
 1 kaleidoscope



EQUIPMENT BROUGHT FROM SCHOOL:

Drawing paper, cut to fit on a clipboard.
Bring extra pencils.
Large envelope to contain students' sketches for safe transport back to school.

ASSIGNMENT FOR GROUP LEADERS A FEW WEEKS PRIOR TO TRIP:

The leader reads all the material about the center.

DIRECTIONS FOR GROUP LEADERS ON TRIP DAY:

Check the contents of the "FOCUS IN" activity box. Gather enough clipboards for the group. Take the materials to the activity area.

If time allows, take a walk along the trail before the first group arrives to familiarize yourself with the area. This will give you an opportunity to find some interesting features. You may point those out to students if they are having difficulty in choosing things to observe through the lenses.

THE LESSON:

1. Explain to the students that we often do not take time to really look at our surroundings. We are only partly aware of what is around us. This center will give us a chance to examine our world more closely. We will have time to sit down and observe a leaf, an insect, a flower, a rock, cactus needles, seeds, or other small parts of nature that we may never notice.
2. Divide the children into groups of two. Give each group a pouch containing the lenses and color sticks.
3. Tell the children that they have 15 minutes to explore with their lenses and color sticks. the lenses will give them different perspectives. Suggest looking for small objects...insects hidden beneath leaves, seeds, flowers. The color sticks are used to match the colors on the sticks to the colors in the desert. We think of the desert as being shades of green and brown, but a closer look shows us that there are many colors hidden in the plants and rocks.

Caution the students to **go slowly**. Children tend to rush through activities.

4. After approximately 15 minutes call the students together. Ask them to share their experiences. What new things did they see? Did the different lenses make the same object look different?
5. Give each child a sheet of paper, a clipboard, and a pencil. Tell the children to think about which view they would like to sketch. Then explain that each student will take one lens of his/her choice, go back to the view they liked best, and take time to make a careful sketch of what they see as they look through the lens. Allow only one lens per child for the sketching activity. Collect all the pouches and check the contents to be sure all equipment has been returned.
6. The children have about 15 minutes to work on their sketches. Encourage them to find one view they like and sketch it carefully. Discourage them from moving from one place to another, thereby not settling in to do one good sketch.
7. About 5 minutes before the end of the activity period, call the students together. Ask them to write their names on their papers and a note of what the sketch is about. Place the drawings in the envelope to be given to the teacher later.
8. Collect all lenses and return them to the bags. Make sure ALL lenses are collected at the end of each period. Collect the sketches, pencils, and clipboards.

CLEANUP:

Check to see that each bag contains all the lenses and color sticks. Give the children's sketches to the teacher to be taken back to school.
After the last group, return all materials to Biznaga cabin.