

Microscopy Madness: Pre-activity

Dear Classroom Teacher,

Before your classroom comes to visit the MIS Track and Explore program, we would like to offer an activity to get students ready to look at microscopes and introduce them to the concept of magnification. When your class arrives at MIS we will be going over the parts of the microscope, and why using microscopes is an important part of science and ecology. The following link provides a worksheet with objects that most students are familiar with, but have been magnified so only part of the image is shown. The images offer clues for your students to guess what the objects are. This provides an opportunity for your students to work with topics of microscopes and magnification before arriving at MIS, but you are not required to do this with your students.

-The Staff at MIS

<http://sciencespot.net/Media/micromyspic.pdf>

Questions to ask your students:

- Why do scientists look at things under microscopes?
- Do microscopes make the objects appear larger or smaller than we see them?
- Why can microscopes be useful to look at things in nature?
- What other things can we look at under a microscope?

Microscopy Madness: Post Activity

Dear Classroom Teacher,

We hope your experience to MIS for our track and explore program was a useful experience for your students. We at MIS would like to provide you with more opportunities to work with your students with Microscopes and the topic of magnification. The students had the chance to work with some interesting things under the microscopes, such as mushrooms, mold, daphnia, hydra, planaria, and yeast. Now that they have had the chance to look at things out in nature, we would like to show them everyday objects under the microscope as well. The following link provides images of everyday objects under an electron microscope that students can look at to gain a different perspective of what things look like.

-The MIS Staff

<http://www.walltowatch.com/view/2883/Stuff+under+an+electron+microscope>

Questions to ask your class:

- Are you surprised by what these things look like under a microscope?
- Which one surprised you the most?
- Why do we look at everyday objects under a microscope? What are the benefits?
- Do any of these objects look like the objects you observed at MIS?