

Going on a safari is an adventure full of new and wonderful creatures. On a mini safari the creatures are small but the adventures are full-sized. Hunt for insects, tiny plants and other wee treasures on a mini safari.

Before heading out on a safari, share your thoughts about insects. Ask questions that prompt thinking in greater detail. If it is mentioned that insects have legs, for example, ask how many and, perhaps, for a description. Make a list of what you know about insects.

Supplies:

- ◇ paper, pencils, clipboards or cardboard pieces
- ◇ rope or string to form a circle at least a metre across or a hula hoop
- ◇ magnifying glasses— optional, but oh so helpful
- ◇ insect, plant ID books or websites, optional
[Insect Identification—Bug Finder](#)



Procedure:

Lay out the circle of rope on a lawn, garden, field, beach or any suitable area. Inside the circle is the safari area where you will be hunting for wee things. While on safari, observe, draw, and gather information about whatever you find. Look under leaves, on flowers, and in the air. Many creatures live their lives hiding out of sight. What is the largest insect you found? The smallest? The most interesting? Tell or write about and draw pictures of your findings. Remember to include as much detail as possible. Be sure to leave living things where you found them.

After the safari, reflect on your observations. Did you find any differences between what you first thought about insects and what you observed in real life? What original ideas were correct and which ones were not? What new things did you learn?

You could group your findings about insects based on similarities and differences. Follow up by researching how scientists classify insects, then compare those categories with your own. (Insects are grouped into orders according to physical characteristics and life cycles.) You could take it one step further and determine whether the insects you found are beneficial, harmful, or neither to plants or people.

Tip: Start a **Neighbourhood Safari!** Set out a stuffed animal, or two, in your yard, visible (but not too visible) to passersby. Invite your friends and neighbours to do the same. Daily walks become safari adventures as you spot all sorts of creatures “hiding” in the neighbourhood. Change them up to keep it fresh and interesting.

So many legs!

Millipedes - 36-400 tiny legs,
moves slowly, curls into a
spiral when frightened
Centipedes - 20-300 long legs,
runs very fast when frightened
All those feet, yet they never trip!

