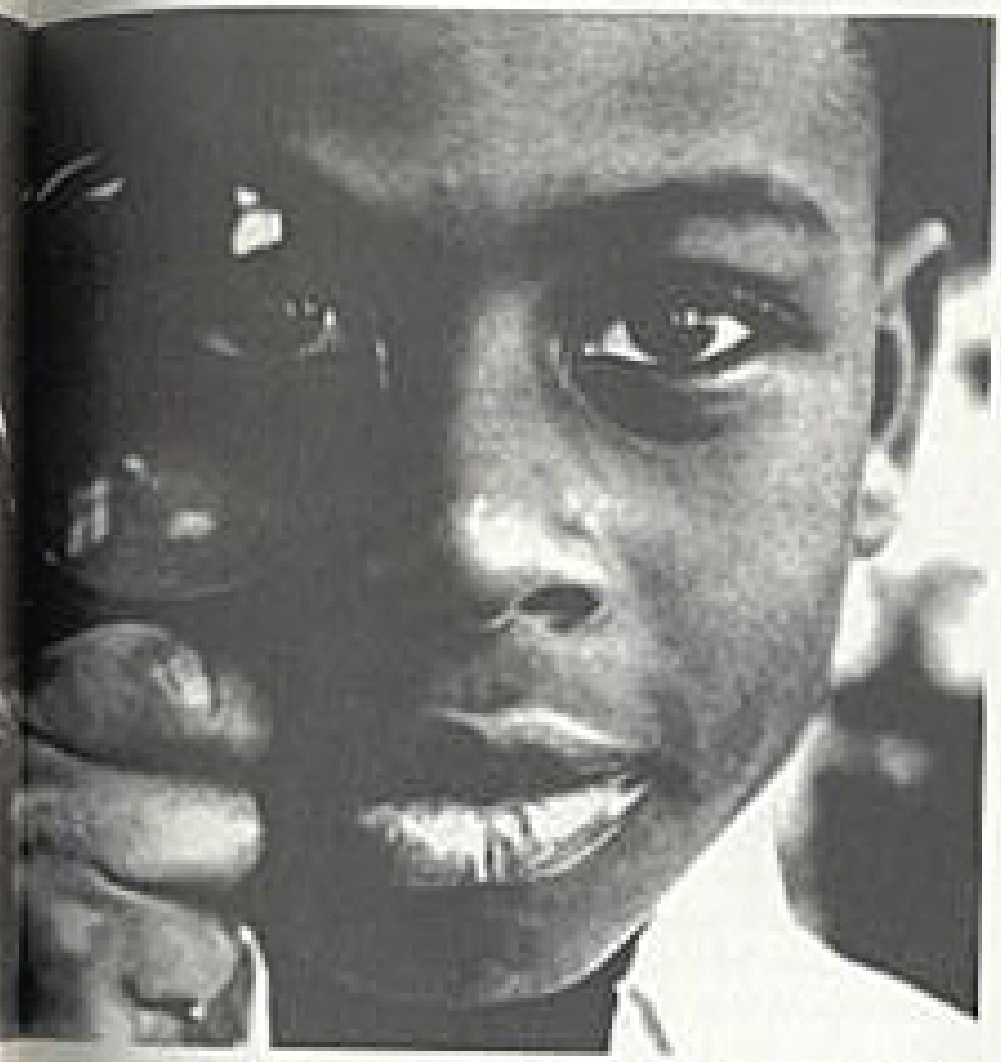
A. Focus Attention
B. Observation of soil surface
C. Day/anywhere
D. 1 or more
E. 4 years and up
F. 3'-5' strings, magnifying glasses

Micro-Hike



A **MICRO-HIKE** is a very short expedition guided by a string three to five feet long. The "hikers" cover the trail inch by inch on their bellies, viewing such natural wonders as grass blades bent by rainbow dewdrops, colorful beetles sprinkled with flower pollen, and powerful jawed eight-eyed spiders. Because young children are particularly fond of tiny objects, their intense absorption in the world of the forest-in-miniature will amaze you.

Begin by asking the children to span their strings over the most interesting ground they can find. Give each child a magical magnifying glass, to shrink himself down to the size of an ant. You may want to ask them questions to stimulate their imaginations: *"What kind of world are you traveling through right now? Who are your nearest neighbors? Are they friendly? Do they work hard? What is that spider going to do—eat you, or take you for a ride? What would it be like to be that metallic green beetle? How does he spend his day?"*

At the start, tell the children that they must keep their eyes no higher than one foot above the ground.