The Emery Babcock Outdoor Classroom at the

Boston School Forest

Hand Lens



1. Show the parts of the hand lens (handle, wrist strap, convex lens).
2. Demonstrate how to use the hand lens be holding the magnification lens at the object you want to observe and NOT up to your eye like a monocle.
3. Slowly bring the hand lens toward you and watch the object get bigger.
4. Hand them out to students and ask them to put the strap around their wrist.
5. Have some objects nearby for kids to look at such as sparkly rocks, leaves with different shapes, pieces of bark.
6. Go on a hike through the woods looking for objects like moss, lichen, bark from different trees, animal hair, feathers, and soil.
7. When you are finished, collect all 24 hand lenses back into the tote. If they are wet, please leave the lid off.

Extensions and Reflections:

1. Use paper and pencils so that kids can make a drawing of what they see through the hand lens. How does it compare with what they see with their own eyes?

2. Use your imagination to think about what the world might look like if you were super small. Make up a story about it.

3. How does your perception of the world change the more you observe things in greater detail?







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