

SCHOOLYARD LEARNING

Ant Buffet

GRADES: K-4 PRIMARY/JUNIOR - SCIENCE, LANGUAGE ARTS

LEARNING SKILLS AND WORK HABITS: Observation, Creating Sense of Place, Mapping

MATERIALS: None

ACTIVITY:

1. Go outside.
2. Find an ant hill in the schoolyard. Observe where the ants from the anthill go. Estimate how far they go. Estimate how many there are.
3. Place certain food objects around the anthill, for example, an apple core, a piece of bread, a spoonful of sugar, a carrot.
4. Is there an immediate change in the ants' behaviour?
5. Return to the anthill the next day. Can you see a food preference for the ants? Have the ants changed their patterns of travel? Have ants from other anthills found the food? Are the ants working cooperatively or competing for food?

TEACHER PROMPTS:

The intention of this activity is to get students to pay attention to living things on a small scale. The activity encourages students to view their schoolyard as habitat, and not just a play area.

ACTIVITY OPTIONS:

Move food around. Add other food for the ants. Make a trail of sugar or juice. Do the ants follow it? Write a story from an ant's perspective. "The Day the Donut Came."

