

## Today I'm an Ant

This activity allows children to use their imagination and observation skills to discover what it's like to be another type of being.

The objective is:

- to become aware of the how other beings survive in the world
- to develop an awareness of how our actions can affect the environment and other beings.

Background:	Often we forget that we share the world with other creatures. We do not realize that we our actions can have an effect on the lives of others. By pretending to be an ant or other being, the children learn what the world is like for that creature.
Skills:	The children should have some knowledge about the habit of the creature that they chose. They should be able relate how their experiences are similar to those of the creature they chose to imitate.
Age:	Grades 3 – 7
Activity:	<p>Ask the children to think about how an ant (or other creature) lives. Where is their home, how do they move, what do they eat.</p> <p>Have each child select one area as the home. If they chose to be an ant or other crawling creature, they should get down on their hands and knees to crawl in a manner similar to that animal.</p> <p>They should see where there is food, water, shelter. Where are the predators? How can they protect themselves? Are there any obstacles that would prevent them from moving to a different area?</p> <p>Allow about fifteen minutes for discovery.</p>
Discussion:	Have each child recount the experience. Were there any barriers that the creature would have to overcome to get food or water? Were there any predators in the area? What did the world look like from that level? If they dropped litter on the ground, how would it affect this creature? What about other environmental contaminants?