Micro Journey
Mark out your own miniature route from an ant’s point of view

Equipment

- String, or wool a few metres long
- Masking tape and a pen to create small flags for landmarks
- A varied natural landscape such as beneath a hedgerow or a patch of longer grass
- A camera or tablet and mirrors/magnifying glasses (optional)

Activity

1. Take a length of string.
2. Lay the string out across a small stretch of varied terrain.
3. Get down low to the ground and examine the ‘route’ that the string takes from an ant’s point of view.
4. Interesting points can be marked with short twigs and masking tape labels.
5. Mirrors or magnifying glasses can give a different perspective and cameras or tablets used to take macro-pictures.

Background

This is an engaging hook for a geography lesson in which children consider routes and mapping in miniature. They are challenged to think about the detail that they see, the panoramic views, the paths, climbs and tunnels that they may be travelling through all from the perspective of an ant.

The activity can also support literacy by stimulating the use of descriptive language and imaginative place naming. Older pupils could write their own guided tour or even record an audio tour as a speaking and listening extension.