



Grade 6-8: Mini Lab Boxes

Please choose one Mini-Lab for your field trip.

Life Science

Mini-Lab #1 DNA and Genetics Discovery

Your class will dive into the study of genetics and discover the role our genes play in inherited traits. Students will actually study and compare their personal traits with their classmate's. They will also have an opportunity to look at real DNA through our extraction process.

Projects Include: Strawberry DNA Extraction, Candy Double Helix, and Recessive and Dominant Traits

Mini-Lab #2 Food & Nutrition

The Food and Nutrition lab consists of three sequential investigations that help students understand what food is, what it is made of, and how several nutrient groups contribute to healthful nutrition.

Projects Include: Using Indicators to test for acid, Vitamin C, sugar, and fats in foods, The New Food Pyramid Chart, Chicken Bone Soup.

Mini-Lab # 3 Human Brain and Senses

In this lab, students will have the opportunity to think about the fact that they have a brain, and to engage in activities that explore some of their routine, but outlandishly complex, brain activities seeing, feeling, hearing, smelling, tasting, and remembering. Students investigate how the brain and senses acquire, interpret and respond to information. An emphasis on vision and touch leads to investigations of the structure and function of the sensory organs and the brain itself.

Projects Include: Taste Test, Model Brain, Optical illusion, and Hearing Test.

Mini-Lab# 4 Dissection Workshop

Students will conduct a study in comparative anatomy in dissection activities that involve an Earthworm, Crayfish and a Frog. Your class will come to understand the differences between vertebrate and invertebrate organisms.

Projects Include: Animal Dissections: Earthworm, Crayfish or Grasshopper, and Frog

Mini-Lab #5 Microscopic Mysteries

Students will use a compound microscope to open up the world of microorganisms and cells. They will discover cells and think about what it means to be single-celled or multicellular organism.

Projects Include: Compound Microscope Diagram, Dry and Wet Mount Slides, and Staining Onion Cells.

Mini-Lab #6 Populations and Ecosystems

Your class will study ecosystems and learn that every organism has a role to play in its ecosystem, and has structures and behaviors that allow it to survive. Students learn that all energy comes from the Sun and they will investigate food webs and determine what factors limit population size.

Projects Include: Milkweed Habitats, and Owl Pellet Dissection.