

The Microscopic World Surrounds Us

with Nicole Banowetz



The Big Idea

In this lesson students will be encouraged to look at their environment in new ways. Learn about what kind of microscopic life surrounds you and how it can be inspirational. We will bring to life the microbes all around using **science, art, and storytelling**.



You'll Need

- Paper and Pencil
- Scissors
- That is all you need but if you have a black marker or nice pen then you can ink the drawings, and if you have colored pencils or crayons you can add color. A ruler is also optional.
- Step-By-Step tutorial:
www.think360arts.org

The Plan

Create an imaginary microscope viewfinder by tracing a cup on paper and cutting it out.

Step 1 - Take your viewfinder on an adventure and imagine what tiny organisms are all around you. As you explore your home and yard find different areas where you think there might be some interesting microscopic life. Look through your viewfinder and imagine yourself zooming into that area. Now imagine the creatures or bacteria that exist there.

Step 2 - Return to your work area to trace your circle viewfinder at least 6 times onto a clean sheet of paper. Make sure to leave space under each circle to write captions later. You can also use multiple pieces of paper if you need more space.

Step 3 - Go over your pencil lines with a marker or dark-colored pencil.



The Plan cont.

Step 4 - In the first circle on your paper draw exactly what you saw through your viewfinder.

Step 5 - In the last circle on your paper draw the most zoomed-in image of what microscopic organism you imagined living in your chosen spot.

Step 6 - Fill in the circles in between the least and most zoomed-in images of your microscopic organisms. Imagine your self zooming in a little for each drawing.

Step 7 - Go over your pencil lines with your dark marker or colored pencil.

Step 8 - Fill in with colored pencils or crayons if you want. Imagine what life is like for the microscopic creatures you chose to illustrate. Do they think about us? Should we be more aware of them? Now we will turn our drawings into a comic book by writing under each of the drawings.

Step 9 - Share your work!



Teaching Artist Tip

- Try to find unique areas in your own home or yard that you don't usually explore.
- You might want to take your drawing supplies to the area where you found your microscopic inspiration. That way you can draw your first image exactly as you see it.
- Think about the arrangement of the circles as you draw them on your paper. Do you want it to look like a comic or would you rather it feel like scientific diagrams.

Going Further

- You can imagine the creatures and bacteria living around you, but if you want you can also research online to see what they actually look like. Do an image search of "microscopic creatures," or "bacteria."
- Can you think about how the microscopic life feels about the humans it surrounds? What are the positive and negative aspects of your relationships with the microscopic world?
- You can actually find tardigrades outside learn how here:
<https://microcosmos.foldscope.com/?p=17901>

