

Creek Critters

Before Your Visit - Optional - Activity 3

Time to Dip In!

When your class visits Sabino Canyon on the field trip the Sabino Volunteers will provide the students with nets and cups for collecting "Creek Critters" from Sabino Creek.

Activity Procedure

With an old stocking, duct tape, a wire hanger and thread or a stapler, students can create their own dip net to collect creek critters. Bend the hanger to form a loop (about 5 - 6 inches across) at one end. Use the duct tape, thread or stapler to secure the stocking to the end of the loop. You will want the net to be somewhere between 3 to 6 inches deep. Students may be paired to construct a net together.

SPECIAL NOTE TO THE TEACHER: Please review the following "Rules for Conscientiously Collecting Creek Critters" with your students. You may want to review the rules a second time just before your trip.

Lesson Information

Materials

An old stocking (one per student or pair of students), wire hanger (one per student), duct tape, thread or stapler.

Time

One class period

Subject

Art, Science

Rules for Conscientiously Collecting Creek Critters

Dear Students:

You've been specially invited on a visit to the home of the plants and animals that live at Sabino Canyon. It is important to respect the fact that Sabino Canyon *is their home* and to treat the "creek critters" as you would want guests to treat you and your home. During your visit, you will be finding and temporarily collecting some of the creek critters that live there. It is *very important* to observe the following rules to insure that we all disturb them and their homes as little as possible. Listen carefully to the following rules and *remember* them during your visit.

Move with caution!

Move slowly and look where you are going; it might be a creek critter's home!

Avoid kicking up the mud in the streambed – this makes it harder to see the creek critters and disturbs others working around you.

Treat critters gently!

Moisten your hands before handling any aquatic animals; their bodies are wet and your dry hand could harm them by removing their necessary moisture.

Creek critter bodies are also soft and tender; undue roughness can easily squish the animal or tear off its limbs!

Respect your fellow critter collectors!

Give others the space they need to collect; the stream is long and there's plenty of area for everyone to work.

Share your discoveries with everyone!

Replace everything you collect!

After studying the creek critters, everything will be returned to its watery home.

If you turn over rocks to find critters, replace them as you found them.