

# WOODSY OWL



Woody's  
Home

ACTIVITY

4

OUR PLOT HAD:

2 ANTS

GRASS

4 PEBBLES

2 TWIGS

1 BOTTLE CAP

1 WORM

## A Single Patch of Earth

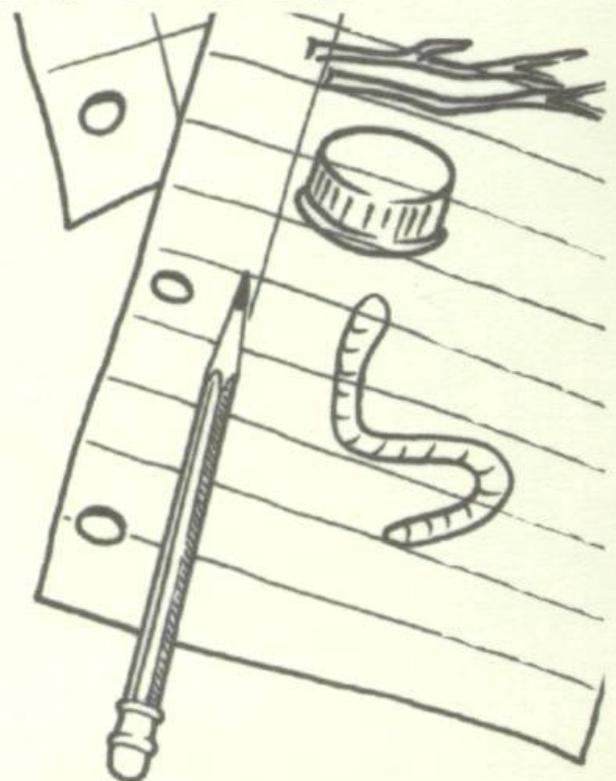
Perform detective work on  
a small patch of earth and  
see how it can be home to  
many living things.

### What you need

Cardboard or manila file folders, Scissors,  
Tape, Paper, Pen and/or crayons, Notebook  
or clipboard, Optional: Backpack, Jar,  
Rulers, Hand lens

### Time

40 minutes



**Get Ready!** Cut the cardboard into frames (about 12 x 12 inches) ahead

**Get Ready!** Cut the cardboard into frames (about 12 x 12 inches) ahead of time for younger children. Scout out some good places to investigate.

**1 Get Started** by telling children that it's possible to find over 300 worms in a small garden! Show children an Earth Investigation Frame and tell them now is their chance to be "Special Detectives of the Earth."

**2** Divide your group into Detective Squads (of two or three children) and give each pair an Earth Investigation Frame. Choose two or three zones where squads can lay down their frames. Have squads rotate to another investigation plot about every 15 minutes. Remind children that good Earth Detectives always write down or draw pictures of everything they find including grass, scraps of litter, and ants. Your detectives should bring along sturdy notepads or clipboards to make

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All the living things (worms, insects, plants) combined from a 6-inch-deep area the size of a football field can be almost as heavy as four elephants!

## IMAGINE WHAT AN ANT MIGHT SEE!

Challenge older children to write a story or draw a picture about what a patch of earth would look like if they were the size of an ant. Activate their imaginations with the book *Two Bad Ants*, by Chris Van Allsburg (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1988).

Children can also take home their stories and Earth Investigation Frames—encourage them to play Earth Detectives with family members in their own backyard!

Try this activity with activities 9 (*A Great Recipe for Garbage*) and 1 (*Woodsy's World Scavenger Hunt*).



writing or drawing what they find easier. When they finish examining one plot, have them count how many items they found in it. Allow children to bring back samples of living and nonliving things when appropriate.

**Tip:** Make sure the area you investigate is free of poison ivy.

**3 Close** by having each squad draw pictures of what they found and tape them behind their Earth Investigation Frames. Have them present their frames to the group and talk about what they found in each plot.

**Tip:** Make copies of the Woodsy Owl detective badge on page 36 for children to wear during the investigation.

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