



The Tiny Protectors — Lesson Plan

Grade: Pre-K–2 | Duration: 40–50 minutes | CASEL Domain: Social Awareness

Objective: Students will discover that tiny creatures play vital roles in ecosystems and that real strength means protecting those smaller than us.

Essential Question: *"How can the biggest heroes look after the smallest things?"*

Materials: The personalized story, Magnifying glasses, Nature journals or paper, Crayons and colored pencils

Vocabulary: Guardian, Protector, Ecosystem, Magnify, Gentle, Web, Colony, Pollinator, Soil, Fragile

ANTICIPATORY SET (5 MIN)

Ask: "What is the smallest living thing you can think of? What do you think it does all day?" Quick whip-around share.

DIRECT INSTRUCTION (15 MIN)

Read aloud. Pause at each creature discovery — ants, spiders, worms, caterpillars. Ask: "What is this creature's job?" Emphasize the turning point: the hero realizes they're ENORMOUS to these creatures and can be their guardian.

GUIDED PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Tiny World Safari: take magnifying glasses outside and observe tiny creatures. Record one observation in a nature journal. Discuss: what job does this creature have?

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Create a Guardian Pledge Card: "I pledge to protect _____ by _____." Draw the creature and write one way to be their guardian.

CLOSURE (5 MIN)

Share pledges aloud. Post on the Guardian Wall. Ask: "What is ONE thing we can do as a class to protect tiny creatures?"

ASSESSMENT

Review nature journals for observation detail. Check pledge cards for understanding of guardianship. Exit ticket: "Name one tiny creature and its job."

DIFFERENTIATION

Support: Provide picture cards of common insects with labels. Pair students for outdoor observation.

Extend: Research one creature and present its "job description" to the class. Start a class terrarium.

HOME CONNECTION

Send home a "Tiny Safari" challenge: find 3 tiny creatures at home or in the yard. Draw them and bring observations to school.
