

Magnifying Glass

Materials

- Magnifying glasses
- Natural objects to observe, such as plants, rocks and shells



Instructions

1. Use the magnifying glasses to closely observe natural objects and encourage children to describe what they see.
2. Demonstrate the correct way to use a magnifying glass: start by holding the lens about halfway between your eye and the object being observed. Move the magnifying glass closer and further away until a clear image can be seen. Most children will tend to hold the lens too close to their eye.

What happens?

A magnifying glass is used to make small objects appear larger so they can be closely observed. The lens in a magnifying glass is 'convex', which means the glass is curved so it is thicker at the centre of the lens and thinner around the edges.

Related activity

Look at a distant object through two magnifying glasses. By adjusting the distance between the lenses, you can make the image of the distant object flip upside down.

