

## SHORT LEARNING CYCLE SKIT

**Scenario:** Students are on a hike with an instructor in a redwood forest.

**Cast:** 1 instructor and 3 students

**Note:** Stage directions are in parenthesis and italics

### **INVITATION**

**Student #1:** Look! A banana slug!

**Instructor:** Check it out! This is one of the weirdest organisms in the redwood forest.

**Student #2:** Cool!

*(All students kneel around the banana slug.)*

**Instructor:** What are some observations you can make about it?

### **EXPLORATION**

**Student #2:** It's slimy!

**Student #1:** Yes it is.

**Student #3:** It has black spots

**Instructor:** It has black spots? Does anyone have an explanation for those black spots?

**Student #2:** Camouflage.

**Instructor:** Someone said camouflage, what do others think?

**Student #1:** Maybe it's camouflaged to look like a leaf.

**Instructor:** Does it look like a leaf to you?

**Student #1:** Kind of.

**Student #3:** It's not brown, and most of these leaves are brown.

**Student #1:** It looks like that leaf, 'cause it's yellow with spots.

**Instructor:** Anyone else?

**Student #2:** It has long eyes

**Instructor:** Long eyes? Can you point to what you're talking about?

*(Student #2 points to tentacles on slug's head.)*

**Instructor:** What makes you say they're eyes?

**Student #2:** There are spots on the end.

### **CONCEPT INVENTION**

**Instructor:** So he's saying there are spots on the end which makes him think they're eyes. Do you guys agree?

**Student #3:** Well, they might be.

**Student #1:** Yeah, those are eyes.

**Instructor:** Use your hand lenses and check it out.

**Student #3:** These two have black spots on them, but these two don't.

**Instructor:** Is that what you noticed, student #1?

**Student #1:** Yeah.

**Instructor:** I've read a bunch of things about banana slugs, including a short book and some articles. And I've read that banana slugs have four things that look like antennae, but are called tentacles. And I've read that two of them are for seeing, and two of them are for feeling.

**Student #2:** Huh!

**Student #3:** Which ones are which?

**Student #1:** Those two are the ones with eyes.

**Instructor:** Which two?

**Student #1:** The ones with black spots.

### **APPLICATION**

**Instructor:** Can anyone think of any quick little investigations we can do with the slug that won't harm it, but will help us test to see if those ones are for seeing, and the others are for feeling?

**Student #3:** We could move a finger toward them, and see if they react.

**Student #1:** Yeah!

**Instructor:** OK, why don't you try doing it, but make sure you don't actually touch the tentacles.

*(STUDENT #3 moves finger near banana slugs)*

**Student #2:** Whoa!

**Student #1:** Those two are the eyes!

**Instructor:** Which two?

**Student #1:** The ones with the black dots. They like curled in and got smaller, but the other ones didn't.

**Instructor:** Student #2, can you try doing the same test, and see what happens?

*(Student #2 moves finger near banana slugs to do the same test)*

**Student #2:** Yep, those are them.

**Student #3:** It's like they're shrinking.

### **Application (continued)**

**Instructor:** Has anyone else seen banana slugs before or heard anything about banana slugs?

**Student #2:** Oh, yeah, I think raccoons eat them, but they have to roll it in dirt first.

**Instructor:** You heard that? What's your source?

**Student #2:** I was at a camp and the counselor said it.

**Instructor:** So student #2 heard from a counselor that raccoons can eat them if they roll them in dirt.

**Student #2:** Yeah, because they have this covering and its like protective and it will like numb up anything that touches it.

### **REFLECTION**

**Instructor:** O.K., we're going to move along the trail now. Everyone be careful not to step on our little slug buddy.

**Student #3:** Big slug buddy!

**Instructor:** Yeah, it's pretty big for a slug. Everybody grab a partner near you, and take turns telling each other everything you can think of that you observed and learned about the slug, just now. And share questions you still have about banana slugs.

*(Students #1 and #2 partner together; student #3 partners with the instructor. Students #1 & #3 both start talking at the same time.)*

**Student #1:** I learned that they're slimy, and they have antennae. I mean, tentacles.

**Student #3:** I learned that they camouflage with black spots. And they have tiny black spots on the end of their thingies that are like eyes for seeing. And you can see it, cause they turn in when you get close to them, but the other ones don't...

**Student #2:** And two of them are for seeing and two are for touching.

**Student #1:** Yeah, and the seeing ones have black eyes.

**Student #2:** Black dots on the ends that are eyes...