

16. Scientific Picnic of the Polish Radio and the Copernicus Science Centre Nencki Institute presentations

SO SMALL AND SO FULL OF ENERGY!

1) We are building a mound!

Presentation of a fragment of a colony of the red wood ant (*Formica polyctena*) in an artificial observation nest allowing the visitors to watch building behaviour of workers of a mound-building ant species (manipulation of plant nest material).

2) We are building a ground nest!

Presentation of a fragment of a colony of the yellow meadow ant (*Lasius flavus*) allowing the visitors to watch behaviour of workers inhabiting a ground nest.

3) We are nursing babies!

Presentation of a small ant colony containing a queen, brood and workers acting as nurses in an observation nest allowing the visitors to observe brood care behaviour.

4) We are running to the rescue!

Presentation of video recordings showing ants from various species trying to rescue a trapped nestmate.

5) Artistic competition

Artistic competition for children (with small prizes such as candies, small toys) and exposition of their works. Children will have occasion to make drawings and/or plasticine models of their own visions of ants.

6) Competition testing the knowledge about ants

Competition for elder children (with small prizes such as candies, small toys) involving an interactive computer presentation on ants and ant behaviour

A BRAIN FULL OF ENERGY = A BRAIN FULL OF IDEAS

1) Secrets of the microworld

Presented phenomenon: Working with the light microscope - from preparation to watching the microworld.

Brief description of the show:

Show will be held by the microscopic stand (light microscope, binocular, 'toy' light microscope combined with a digital camera for kids), where such preparations will be presented as insects, water from the pond, leaves (for the youngest participants), and stained tissue sections from different animal species, which are used in the research conducted in the Nencki Institute (for youth and adults). Animators will describe what can be seen on the slides and explain how to make a microscopic preparation.

The form of the show: experiments made by the visitors themselves

What kind of audience is the show for: kindergarten, primary school, middle school, high school students, adults.

How are the visitors involved: participants will be able to prepare the preparations by themselves and watch the later on as well as photograph them using the camera in the microscope.

2) Do not believe your eyes!

Presented phenomenon: Optical illusions

Brief description of the show:

various optical illusions and their explanations will be presented. Illusions will be presented on laminated cards: on one side of the card the image will be presented along with questions about the particular illusion, on the other side there will be an explanation of the phenomenon. If any questions arise animators will provide more detailed explanations.

The form of the show: experiments made by the visitors themselves

What kind of audience is the show for: primary school, middle school, high school students, adults.

How are the visitors involved: participants will be able to check how vulnerable they are for optical illusions. They will also learn about the neurological background of the phenomenon.

3) The magic elixirs

Presented phenomenon: mixing of different colorful solutions and making steam from dry ice

Brief description of the show:

The youngest participants will have the opportunity to transform into chemists working in the laboratory. Using colored solutions and dry ice they will create steaming concoctions.

The form of the show: experiments made by the visitors themselves

What kind of audience is the show for: kindergarten, primary school

How are the visitors involved: participants will be able to prepare their own colorful solutions, mix potions and get familiar with basic laboratory equipment such as test tubes, pipettes, dishes, etc.

4) Have brain - have fun!

Presented phenomenon: competition with questions about some of the brain functions (with prizes).

Brief description of the show:

Competition with small prizes (candy, small toys). The goal will be to answer questions asked by the animators or to perform different tasks related to how the human brain is involved in performing various tasks such as memorizing, reading, perception of shapes, etc.

The form of the show: experiments made by the visitors themselves

What kind of audience is the show for: primary school, middle school, high school students, adults.

How are the visitors involved: participants by answering questions and performing simple tasks will learn how their brain functions during memorization, learning, reading, identifying the shapes, colors, etc.

In addition, 5 posters thematically related to each stand will be presented.