

Minibeasts Safari

Investigating Invertebrates

This lesson may need more than one visit to complete. Visiting at different times of the day or year and in different weather conditions will create further work and make the children more inquisitive.

Keystage: 1, 2

National Curriculum Links:

Science 1 Scientific Enquiry
Science 2 Life Processes

Links to other subjects

PSHCE /English / ICT /Art
Maths 4 (KS2)

Learning Objectives:

- To be familiar with woodland and grassland creatures.
- To study living things in their habitat.
- To relate life processes to animals and plants found in the environment.

Resources:

- Trays / bug pots / magnifying bug pots / magnifying glasses / plastic spoons
- Sweep nets
- ID key
- Paper for making sketches of creatures found.

Activity

Starter /Introduction

- Introduce session with safety talk. Watch out for bees, wasps and nettles.
- Can the children suggest where they might find minibeasts?
- Show some techniques for capturing minibeasts into bug pots. E.g. shaking trees, grass onto tray/ card/paper.

Main Activity

Go on a minibeasts hunt. Test their predictions. Younger children may need adult help to collect the creatures.

Methods of collection

Short grass: Use plastic spoons and pots to collect and examine minibeasts.

Long grass: 'Sweep' nets can be swept through long grass to gather many species at once.

Trees: Place a white sheet (paper or cloth under a low branch and shake the branch gently. Minibeasts will fall onto the sheet allowing children to examine them.

Plenary

Discuss and compare observations. Did you find any creature that you were unable to identify?