

Forest Insects – Recording Sheet

Date _____ Weather _____

Name of forest _____

Microhabitats in forest eg pond, open space, coniferous woodland



Use the table below, and an insect key or identification book, to help you find insects and record what you discover. You can make drawings of the insects you find on the back of the sheet.

Insect	Where to look for it	What is its job?	What does it eat?	What eats it?	How many did you find?	Describe your insect (eg colour, size, wings, antennae, movement) Name the species if you can (eg 2-spot ladybird)	Where exactly did you find it? (in which micro-habitat eg on oak leaf, under the bark of a fallen log)
Ladybird	On plants	Plant pest eater	Aphids	Shrews Birds			
Beetle	Leaf litter Dead wood On plants	Rubbish remover	Some eat plants and wood; Some eat dead animals	Badger Hedgehog			

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Butterfly	Sunny places Flowers	Pollinator	Caterpillars eat leaves; Butterflies eat nectar	Caterpillars eaten by birds; Butterflies eaten by wasps, dragonflies, parasitic flies			
Bee	Sunny places Flowers	Pollinator	Nectar Pollen	Birds Badgers Dragonflies			
Dragonfly	Near ponds	Insect population controller	Other insects – nymph eats mosquito larvae; adult eats flying insects	Frogs Fish Spiders Birds Bats			
Ant	Leaf litter Dead wood Under stones	Harvester Rubbish remover Decomposer	Plants Other insects 'Milk' from aphids	Frogs Spiders Birds Snakes Lizards Other types of ant			

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Wasp	Flying anywhere	Pest controller	Other insects Pollen Nectar Fruit	Spiders Birds Lizards Bats Frogs			
Moth	Flying Leaf litter Leaves	Pollinator	Nectar Fluids from sap, flowers or rotting fruit Bird droppings	Bats Owls Other birds			
Earwig	Leaf litter Leaves	Rubbish remover Decomposer	Flower petals Ripe fruit General waste Other insects	Spiders Frogs			
Fly	Leaf litter Leaves	Harvester Rubbish remover Decomposer Population controller	Nectar Pollen Dead animals Other insects	Frogs Spiders Snakes Birds			

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Shield bug	Leaf litter Leaves	Harvester Population controller	Sap Leaves Some eat insects	Parasitic fly Spiders			

Some questions to consider:

- Which were the most common insects?
- Which were the most unusual insects?
- Did you find different insects in different micro-habitats?
- Which were the best micro-habitats for insects?
- Did you find any insects that weren't on the list?
- The forest provides homes and food for all sorts of other wildlife – did you see any other animals or birds, or any evidence that they had been there?
- The Forestry Commission manages the forest for wildlife, and also for people and timber – did you see other people visiting the forest? What sort of activities were they doing? Did you see any evidence of activities that are provided for visitors eg trail signs, picnic tables?
- One of the most important aspects of forest management is the production of timber. How many things can you think of that are made of wood?
- Visit www.forestry.gov.uk/england-learning and click on downloads for activities to help you to learn more about the forest – there is a slideshow that tells you all about the forest cycle, and how the forest is managed for timber, people and wildlife.