

Essential information

Age range:

7-11 (children either side of this range may enjoy this activity dependant on ability)

Group size:

Split into groups of 4 or 5

Time needed:

Approximately 30 minutes mini-beast hunting and recording and 30 minutes to complete worksheet

Curriculum links:

Science Units: 4A Moving and growing; 4B Habitats; 6A Interdependence and adaptation. Citizenship Units: 03 Animals and us

Setting:

Outside

Contact us:

For enquiries regarding the activity sheets , please contact Emily Jones on:
emily@ptes.org
020 7498 4533
www.ptes.org

For enquiries regarding stag beetle biology and ecology, please contact Deborah Harvey on:
d.harvey@rhul.ac.uk

Bug passports- leader's notes

Background to activity

In this activity children will take part in a mini-beast hunt and observe and record one chosen bug and its habitat. Children will also learn how to look after and respect wildlife.

Materials needed

- Insect jars, magnifiers and small paintbrushes (to collect the bug in the jar without damaging it)
- A 'bug passport' worksheet for each child - provided
- Mini-beast ID sheets- provided
- Clipboards and pencils

Running the activity

Organise a mini beast hunt in your school grounds or local woods. This works best in small supervised groups to keep disturbance to a minimum. Once the children have had a good chance to explore and identify a number of species (see ID sheets) ask them to choose just one animal to study more closely. Hand each child a bug passport suitable for their ability to complete. Once completed make sure the children return their mini-beast carefully to exactly where they found it.

Extension activities

- Make a poster advising people how to look after mini-beasts and their habitats.
- Improve your school grounds for mini-beasts. See 'Bury a bucket', 'Create a log pile' and 'Create a bug hotel' activities. Good for registered 'Eco-schools'.
- Make a class woodland food web using each child's food chain completed in the level 2 bug passports.