

Bug passport leader's notes

Background

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 move 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.

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: Approx. 30 mins mini-beast hunting and recording and 30 mins to complete worksheet

Curriculum links: Science-

Lower and Upper KS2: Working scientifically

Year 3: Animals, including humans

Year 4: Living things and their habitats

Animals, including humans

Year 5: Living things and their habitats

Year 6: Living things and their habitats

Setting: Outside