

About the Activity

During this activity participants study invertebrates in a variety of habitats. When searching for the invertebrates they investigate concepts such as feeding relationships, life cycles and adaptations and use dichotomous keys to identify and classify the invertebrates they have found.

Activity Aims

The aim of this activity is to:

- Introduce the minibeast safari and the equipment needed for the activity.
- Allow each participant to collect, identify and record invertebrates.
- Ensure participants work together supporting and encouraging each other.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to discuss what they have accomplished.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the activity, participants will have:

- Used keys to identify minibeasts in a number of habitats.
- Observed how minibeasts are adapted to their environment.
- Used food chains to represent feeding relationships in a habitat and identified that each food chain begins with a producer.
- Recognised that invertebrates and the habitats they are found in need to be treated with care and respect.
- Learnt to understand the importance of safety, risk, risk assessment, hazards and rules.
- Demonstrated the ability to listen to, understand and act on instructions received.
- Understanding of the importance of teamwork.
- Consolidated and then improved abilities through performance.
- Contributed to a post activity review led by the instructor identifying what they did well and then suggested ways to improve.

Progression Opportunities

Some participants may also:

- Make predictions as to where certain species will be found.
- Confidently classify invertebrates.
- Take the initiative in evaluating their performance and that of the group.
- Be able to assess risks and understand how these may be controlled.

In addition, participants should also have developed in the following:

- Interpersonal communication
- Teamwork

Associated Vocabulary:

Words relevant to safety e.g. boundaries, hazards, risk assessment, rules.

Words relevant to equipment e.g. bug pot, bug viewer, identification key, specimen tray, sweep net.

Words relevant to the activity e.g. adaptation, classification, collect, consumer, food chain, habitat, invertebrate, identify, key, life cycle, observe, organism, predator, prey, producer, record, vertebrate.

Words relevant to teamwork e.g. achievement, discussion, instruction, listening, participation, responsibility.