



VOLUNTEERING
& LEARNING



PENDLE HILL
LANDSCAPE
PARTNERSHIP

OUTDOOR LEARNING SESSIONS

Minibeast Hunting



Minibeast hunting encourages children to explore their local natural environment around them. The session focuses on insects, spiders, molluscs and other invertebrates, to allow for comparisons and cataloguing between species. Sampling methods will be demonstrated within different habitats, to allow for further discussions on habitat features and minibeast adaptations.

Session can be adapted to suit EYFS, KS1, KS2 and KS3. The preliminary theme of the session can either be life cycles or food chains, depending on the focus. The sessions can be delivered within a range of habitats, depending on the location of the trip. If time allows on longer sessions, there will be two habitat comparisons.

Minibeast hunting session

Habitat discovery

The children will learn the basic characteristics of invertebrates, particularly insects and decide how they might collect different species from various habitats. Methods of collection (survey) will be demonstrated, identification keys will be revealed and recording methods explained. Conservation and care for the wildlife will be encouraged.

How to survey

With demonstrations, children can collect species using the following methods, depending on habitats and equipment available;

Sweep netting, Tree and bush shaking, Soil and leaf litter sieving,
Looking under logs and stones, Looking in walls, Pond dipping.

The results of each method will be recorded on simple identification sheets using keys and charts suitable for habitat and ages.

Habitat comparison

Comparisons between habitats and the minibeasts that live there, will lead to investigations into the differing micro habitats. Plus discuss the appropriate surveying technique and why.



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Classification

Learn how to categorise the species into carnivore, herbivore, omnivore and detritivore. As well as choosing categories depending on insects body parts and other adjectives.

Adaptions

Using the collected species, children will investigate how some minibeasts have adapted to suit their environment. Learn how habitat changes can influence the environment. A minibeast passport will compile the information learnt within the habitats surveyed.

Please choose either food chains or life cycles

Food chains

Food chains will be introduced, to reinforce how living things depend on each other to survive. Then discuss; trophic level, energy flow, food webs, terms (prey, predator, consumer, producer) and human impact scenarios. The session will conclude with a discussion about conservation importance.

Life cycles

Children will learn about insect lifecycles, investigate camouflage, survival and discuss how different stages of the life cycle suit different habitats. This will outline the key requirements of habitats and the importance of conservation.

National Curriculum links

EYFS

ELG 01 Listening & attention, ELG 02 Understanding, ELG 03 Speaking
ELG 04 Moving & handling, ELG 05 Health & self-care,
ELG 11 Numbers, ELG 12 Shape, space & measures, ELG 09 Reading, ELG 10 Writing:
ELG 14 The world, ELG 06 Self-confidence & self-awareness, ELG 08 Making relationships,

KS1

Working scientifically, animals, seasonal changes, Living things and their habitats, Locational awareness, Spoken Language, Reading, writing, Numbers, statistics

KS2

Working scientifically, Animals, Living things and their habitats, Evolution and inheritance
Locational awareness, place knowledge, geological skills and fieldwork
Spoken Language, Reading, writing, Numbers, statistics

**For more information or to make a booking please contact:
PendleHill@ErnestCookTrust.org.uk or 01200 420420**

