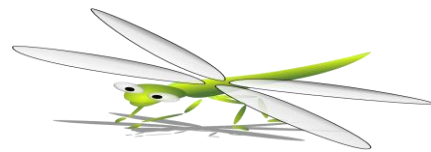


MAGNIFICENT MINIBEASTS

TEACHER'S NOTES



MAGNIFICENT MINIBEASTS

TEACHER'S NOTES

This programme links well to the Discovery Trail. In this Activity children are encouraged to use their senses to look, listen and touch their way around their outdoor area searching for minibeasts. There is a range of worksheets for different ages and levels to assist with a survey for minibeasts.

Science Curriculum links :

To relate life processes to animals and plants found in the local environment.

How to treat animals with care and sensitivity.

Find out about the different kinds of plants and animals in the local environment.

Preparation

Ask the children

1. What is a minibeast? *Small invertebrate (has no backbone). Range of species insects, spiders, worms, slugs, snails.*
2. How many can they name?
3. Where would you find minibeasts? *Under leaves and stones, on and under rotting logs, flying in the air and around flowers.*
4. What do they eat? *They eat a wide variety of things - dead or alive, plant or animal, fresh or decaying. Many of them help dead things to rot down.*

ACTIVITY

Minibeast Survey

Explain the activity and give clear locations where they can search (avoid standing on flower beds, must be in sight of an adult). This can be done individually or in pairs.

Agree rules such as:

Be quiet and kind– otherwise they will all hide away
Do not touch their wings.
Be gentle – they are delicate so do not squash them.
If they do pick any of the minibeasts up they must be returned to the same place.
If you move rocks or logs put them back exactly as you found them.

Talk about the health and safety aspects of the area that they are exploring and not to put their hands to their faces. Antiseptic wipes may be useful.

Using their worksheets they can record their finding, either simply making a note of what they have found or can examine the minibeast, look at size, shape, colour, number of legs, eyes and how it moves. They could use a minibeast picture guide to work out what each minibeast is. Magnifying glasses would be useful.

To collect minibeasts.

If you choose to allow children to collect minibeast please demonstrate how to collect minibeasts without damaging them. Some minibeasts are particularly difficult to catch without harming them.

Show how to use a plastic spoon to carefully pick up the minibeast. Suggest have a small amount of leaves or grass in the bottom of the container so they are more comfortable.

Slugs and snails need a separate container as they produce a mucus.

Other resources from:~

[Minibeast identification sheet](#) from Nature Detectives

[Reference material on bugs](#) from The Field Studies Council

www.rbkc.gov.uk/PDF/Minbeasts%20pack.pdf Excellent provides information, identification of minibeasts, keys for identification and worksheets

www.rbkc.gov.uk/PDF/Minbeasts%20pack.pdf Activity pack, identification, lifecycle, pollination, camouflage, keys

www.crickweb.co.uk Free on-line interactive minibeast identification activity