

Invertebrates KS2 - How to guide

Collect equipment from the centre and follow the map to the Orchard Meadow.

Equipment

All equipment is provided: please do not bring your own.

Each small group will need;

- 1 white tray and a stick
- 1 brush
- 1 bug box
- 1 identification guide
- 1 sweep net (if weather is dry)

Instructions

1. Introduce invertebrates, what do we mean by an invertebrate?
Discuss: how are invertebrates different from us?
Split the children into small groups (ideally 3 per group)
2. Invertebrate Hunting:
Tree tapping: white trays are held under a branch and the branch tapped gently with a stick to dislodge invertebrates into the tray for identification: discuss are trees living or dead? Tap gently so as not to cause damage.

Bug boxes are to be placed in front of an animal and the brush used to gently sweep animals into the pot. Place the lid on being, careful not to catch any legs/wings etc. No slugs, snails or worms should be put in bug boxes as this makes them very sticky and other animals will get stuck to them!

There are lots of logs in the meadow, ask the group to use their hands (not feet) to turn logs over gently. They might see lots of animals running around or they might be hiding under leaves so they must look very carefully and be careful not to stand on the areas they have uncovered.

Sweep nets should be swept through long grass or nettles (being careful not to catch brambles), the bag of the net should then be held closed and then tipped out into the white tray where the bug box and brush can be used as above to catch invertebrates.

Use an identification guide to identify the animal.

Important:

- Logs should be put back in the same place and the same way up that you found it. This is the animal's home so we can't leave it broken with no roof!
 - Never pick the animals up with your fingers as they can easily be squashed by accident. Some animals might also feel threatened and try to bite, but they're all very small and no animals are dangerous enough to pose a real risk.
 - Don't put too many animals together in a pot, they don't all get on!
 - Nets should **not** be used to catch butterflies, dragonflies or damselflies as this can cause serious damage to the invertebrates.
 - Don't roll the logs in the sitting circle as this will dislodge animals who will then get squashed as we sit on them
 - If you find a lizard or a newt, please do not pick them up, it may be a protected species and, as such, can only be handled under licence. Quietly observe before carefully replacing the log back over them with small sticks placed either side of the animal to prevent the log from crushing them.
3. Classification Hoops activity: animals should be kept in pots (out of the sun) and the group given another pot. The aim is to collect as many different animals as possible for the Classification Hoops activity (see separate resource sheet).
 4. Animals should be returned to where they were found. If under a log, they should be released beside the log so they can crawl back underneath by themselves.
 5. Discuss: what did you find? Where did you find things? Did you find more under logs or in the long grass? Why was this? Why do we classify things? How does it help to group things according to characteristics.

At the end of the activity

Ensure all bug boxes are empty (and complete with lids!), turn nets inside out to ensure nothing remains inside and return all equipment to the centre.

