



# TREES AND GRASSLANDS



## Programme One

### TEACHER INSTRUCTION ACTIVITY 8 Bug Hunt

Insects (invertebrates) live in different areas in the park. Some prefer the ground, while others are found in the trees or feeding on flowers. This activity is expanding our search creepy crawlies through the park and can also be used when looking in areas of grass. Catching and drawing insects from your park will teach children to look closely at their basic structure and what vocabulary to use when describing them. It also increases their understanding of different wildlife and where they live.

#### You will need:

- Insect pots (any container that allows you to see-through it (the lid))
- Magnifying glasses (if available)
- A piece of card or paintbrush (for humanely picking up insects!)
- Soil
- Small pebbles or a stone
- Nature diary
- Pencil
- Coloured crayons/pencils
- Garden trowel for digging
- Woodland Name Trail I.D. Guide

#### What to do:

1. Help your students prepare clean insect pots for the insects by putting some damp soil or compost in the bottom and adding a stone or two for weight.
2. Go to your park and help them to find some insects. They like to hide in cool, damp places such as among dead leaves/wood, on trees and under rocks. The children can try carefully moving stones, looking in the compost bin and examining flowers, leaves and the soil.
3. Your students can collect them carefully by using a piece of card or a paintbrush to pick them up and put them in the insect pots.
4. Give your students a magnifying glass to watch what the bugs do. They can put them on a clean piece of paper if they want to look more closely at them. How many legs do they have? What colours are they? Do they have any patterns on their bodies? What do their faces look like? How do they defend themselves?
5. Explain that because insects are really important to their habitat, we must return them to their homes carefully. Draw one or more of the insects that they saw in their nature diary. Tell them to make their picture nice and big.



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#### Background Information:

- Stress that it is important to respect the 'bugs' and not to harm them in any way. e.g. worms have delicate skin that can easily be damaged by handling, long exposure to sunlight and very dry conditions.
- Some bugs can bite (for example, red ants and mosquitoes). Others are reputed to bite but do not usually do so (for example, earwigs and shield bugs).
- There is no need to put holes in the lids of the insect pots, particularly as they will be releasing the insects after the drawing activity.
- Try not to catch bees and wasps. Many flies and hoverflies mimic these as a way of keeping safe. These are good insects to get to know because you can observe them without the risk of getting stung.
- During your bug hunt, explain to them that insects are a type of organism (living animal) that have different jobs in their habitat (where they live) such as they are decomposer of dead organisms such as leaf litter each autumn, or are food for other animals such as spiders who are carnivores.

#### Common bugs that they may find:

ants	grasshoppers
aphids	ground beetles
butterflies	hoverflies
centipedes	leafhoppers
cockchafers	ladybirds
crickets	longhorn beetles
daddy-long-legs	millipedes
earwigs	moths
woodlice	spiders
flies	weevils

#### Definitions of the Different Organisms:

Invertebrate:	an animal without a backbone
Arachnids:	arthropods with four pairs of legs, no wings and usually two body parts.
Arthropod:	animals which have a segmented body, a hard external skeleton and jointed appendages that are used for feeding, feeling and walking.
Insect:	a small creature with three body parts (head, thorax and abdomen) and three pairs of legs. Many have wings. Many undergo complete changes of shape during their lifecycles.
Myriapods:	a loose grouping of arthropods typified by centipedes and millipedes.



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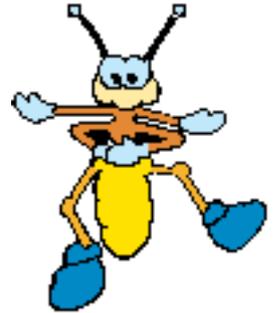
Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## ACTIVITY WORKSHEET 8

### Bug Hunt

#### Student Instructions:

Today, you will be investigating the world of creepy crawlies (also called bugs, insects and invertebrates). On this worksheet, you are going to record what you find. You will be looking at three areas to discover where bugs live.



Record your findings in the table below.

Under Rocks	Dead Wood/ Leaves	On Trees

1. Where did you find the most creatures? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name an animal that eats bugs & insects \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why are insects important? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_