

BUG HUNTING ACTIVITIES

Head into your garden, park/ forest or beach and search for insects or small animals



What will you need ?

- *A hand lense*
- *Notebook / journal*
- *Wildlife book*


(all optional all you really need is to be outdoors to explore)

No matter where you go, there will always be insects, bugs to find. From in the air flying above your head to the depths in the soil.

To start with you can think about what a true insect is and see what makes them a true insect in comparison to spiders, millipedes and woodlice.

Insects by definition have 6 legs and 3 body parts.

- 1. Look around, what can you spot first flying above you ? are their beetles, lacewings, ladybirds or a butterfly ?*

 - 2. Move onto plants, look underneath the leaves, inside flowers or around buds. Some little bugs you could find are pollen beetles, ladybirds, stink bugs and greenfly. Look at plants such as nettles (but don't touch) as these are good areas for butterflies to lay their eggs.*
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3. *The soil -Did you know a teaspoon of soil can contain up to 50 m microbes. When you're inspecting the soil have a look and see what's lying on the surface and what might be looking about. Then dig a little further and you might begin to see worms if it's happy and healthy soil.*

4. *The beach. Having a look along the rocks for crabs, sea anemones, snails. In the grass along there see if there's any bugs different from your house.*

Try and write down or draw what you see in a notebook ! put the date and write about what you enjoyed the most. Maybe make it a regular thing and see if you notice any changes around as the year progresses.

You may even end up wanting to write a little profile about the bugs you liked the most.

If you want to attract more bugs to your area. Try a bug hotel, letting some grass grow long, planting wildflowers or leaving piles of leaves, twigs or grass around