

# Nature detectives

## (Life cycles and habitats KS1)

Best done in the summer

**2 groups** - if a large class they may have to be subdivided or split into 3 with the third group **Exploring Field 2**

### Activity 1

#### 'Bug' hunting

##### (i) with sweep nets in grassland.

Take care with nets and insects etc caught !!

Explain that all minibeasts are not 'bugs' or even insects

Identity keys for adults and simple keys for children

Insects – 6 legs, flies, beetles etc. Hopefully ladybirds and larvae.

Spiders 8 legs – eggs, spiderlings, spiders

Near upper seat in field 1

**Marbled white** butterflies (hopefully) plus pictures.

Life cycle, egg – larva – pupa (chrysalis) – adult ...mate - eggs...

food plants and need for long grass

#### **Burnet moths**

look out for cocoons and emerging moths

##### (ii) looking in leaf litter, under logs and under leaves etc

We have FSC keys – they can look at pictures.

Also butterflies and spiders.....

### Activity 2

**Pond dipping** – identifying what you can from simple keys.

**Use pond 2.** work in 2's or 3's with a set of equipment.

If a large group use pond 1 as well but swap over

Equipment - net, white tray, spoon, magnifying pot, key

look at dragonfly nymph 'case' and life cycle

#### **Timing**

The timing will depend on whether it is a morning or afternoon visit.

**Brief introduction**, safety and organising 5-10 mins

**Look round copse** – nest boxes, ducks, moorhens, bluebells, campions, listen for birds.....

10-15 mins .

**2 activities** of about 35 - 40 mins each plus 5 mins for change over/catch up.

**Summing up** and sort out at the end in time to get back to school 10 mins