

Year 2 Nature detectives (Living things and their habitats KS1)

Children do the observing and activities; adults record and collect their answers and information for follow up at school

Children will learn:

- to identify different habitats
- that living things live in habitats that suit them
- to identify some plants and animals in the chosen habitats and understand that they depend on each other
- about simple food chains
- about simple life cycles

Introduction: 9.25 – 9.40

safety and organisation of morning.

Habitats; what are they? Look around and name some (ponds, stream, grassland, hedge, woodland), and smaller ones such as under a log called **micro-habitats**

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

Leave drinks etc on the seat by pond 1 and divide into **two groups**.

2 activities of about 35 mins each plus 15 mins for change over/catch up/drink/ explore 'fairy bridge',/rest in shade/ game.....teachers choice!

first activity 9.45 – 10.30 break 10.30 – 10.45 second activity 10.45 – 11.30

Activity 1

Near the upper seat in field one. *Equipment – 7 nets, 7 viewing pots to catch interesting insects, pictures and keys.* Work in twos or threes.

'Bug' hunting with 'butterfly' nets in grassland.

Take care with nets and insects etc caught !! Demonstrate how to use.

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

use simple keys and pictures to try to identify -

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

Spiders 8 legs – eggs, spiderlings, spiders.

Lots of legs or no legs!

Adults record what they find on recording sheet.

Marbled white butterflies (hopefully) - plus pictures.

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

food plants (it prefers purple flowers such as thistle, knapweed, scabiuos) and need for long grass to lay eggs on

Burnet moths - look out for cocoons and emerging moths – picture of moth

look in bottom of grassland and under leaves etc (do not use nets for this) to see what you can find – slugs, spiders, snails, woodlice...???

Activity 2

Use pond 2 and work in 2's or 3's with a set of pond dipping equipment which will be set out at suitable placed around the pond – ideally 5 sites. Extra care is needed when the pond is very low.

Equipment – black pond net, white dish with pond water, magnifying pot, white spoon, simple key.

Pond dipping – Demonstrate use of nets (not in thick vegetation or mud at bottom of pond) and turn inside out in water in tray. Identify what you can from simple keys. They will nearly all be insect larvae (nymphs).

look at dragonfly nymph 'case' and go through life cycle: egg, nymph (in water for most of its life) emerges as adult, mates, eggsWhat do nymph's eat? Vegetation, each other....

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

Recording form for Invertebrates Year 2

Name	Tick if found	How many legs (none, 6,8,lots)	Anything you want to say about it
Slug			
Snail			
Worm			
Woodlouse			
Millipede			
Centipede			
Spider			
Harvestman			
Insects			
Cranefly			
Grasshopper			
Ant			
Lacewing			
Bluebottle / fly			
Aphid			
Froghopper			
Butterfly			
Beetle			
Hoverfly			
Ladybird			
Shield bug			
Moth			
Earwig			
Bee			
Wasp			

Pond recording form Year 2

place a tick (or the number found) in the box next to each animal

Invertebrate name	Tick or number	Any comment
Pond snail		
Ramshorn snail		
Midge larva		
Water flea		
Leech		
Freshwater hoglouse		
Freshwater shrimp		
Pond skater		
Water boatman		
Diving beetle		
Beetle larva		
Water scorpion		
Dragonfly nymph		
Mayfly nymph		
Damselfly nymph		
Other		
Vertebrates		
Tadpole		
Frog		
Frog spawn		
Newt		
Newt tadpole		
Other		