



Severn Valley Country Park

Educational Activities for Kids at Severn Valley Country Park

Mini-Beast Hunts

Finding mini-beasts is very easy and great fun for all age groups which is why it is one of our most popular educational activities for kids. Children can act as nature detectives for an enjoyable but informative session looking at creatures in different habitats, and finding out how and where they live.

Identification and recording skills are developed in conjunction with an understanding of a variety of wildlife and their habitats. Children will be amazed at the number and variety of creatures they will find. Using sweep nets and log searching, children can collect and study mini-beasts from various habitats. This allows them to observe and then consider the adaptations that these invertebrates have made to live under different conditions.



Duration

Approximately two hours.

Equipment

Each child will need: suitable clothing and footwear.

We will provide: sweep nets, trays, bug viewers, identification and recording sheets.

Time of year

April to October is best but mini-beasts can be found at any time of year.

Contact

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Activity Content

Please note that the following pages give a general description of this activity and its links to the curriculum. We reserve the right to make modifications to the content to reflect weather conditions and safety requirements.

We will be very happy to modify and amend the activity contents to enable your children or school to meet specific objectives if required.

More details of this activity are on the following page

Activity breakdown and Links to National Curriculum

Activity	Curriculum
Housekeeping, hygiene, toilets, food, drink, First Aid, etc. Locations and maps	English: speaking and listening Maths: Applying mathematics Geography: recognise and observe at local scale
Welcome children & ask if they have been mini-beast hunting before. Ask what they expect to find.	Science: organisms and their behaviour
Walk from centre to woodland or meadow. (Depending on time of year the mini beast hunt will either be in the log piles on the woods or in the meadow using sweep nets.)	English: speaking and listening Geography: recognise and observe at a local scale
Health and safety talk on arrival at the location. Working safety, helping each other, sharing equipment and information.	English: speaking and listening Science: how science works
Children work in pairs or small groups (if sweep netting). They may also work independently if they are working in the woodland.	Science: organisms and their behaviour, name and describe features of plants and animals
We provide specimen tray, magnifying pot, identification and recording sheets.	Science: organisms and their behaviour, name and describe features of plants and animals
Explain about the safe handling of specimens that have been captured. Eliciting answers about the potential impact of humans on the creatures.	Science: how science works
As the children hunt for mini-beasts, response to their questions, help identify the mini-beasts as they are found and the habitats in which they live.	Science: name and describe features of plants and animals
Explain how each of the creature cohabit the environment and the relationship and dependencies of each other. Explain lifecycle as appropriate. Explain how the creatures they find fit into the food-chain, and discuss the impact of changes.	Science: organisms and their behaviour Science: name and describe features of plants and animals
Bring all the specimen trays together so children can see what each other has caught. Ensure that everyone sees the variety of species that have been captured.	Science: name and describe features of plants and animals Maths: Applying mathematics, number and algebra
Count and record how many of each species have been captured. How do the numbers relate to each? Which are the most prevalent species and which are the least. Can we work out why?	Maths: Applying mathematics, number and algebra Science: name and describe features of plants and animals
At end, ask children to empty specimen trays, nets and magnifying pots to make sure all the creatures get back to their original locations and explain why.	English: speaking and listening
Before leaving the hunt area, let children know they will need to wash their hands on return to the centre and explain why.	English: speaking and listening
Return to Visitor Centre	

See our [Teachers Guide](#) for more detailed information on curriculum.