

ACTIVITY 1



Minibeast Hunting

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|------------------------|----------------------|
| Season | Spring/Summer/Autumn |
| Site | All |
| Age Group | All |
| No. of Children | Any |



Equipment Needed: Lidded transparent jars or pots with holes in the top, nets, magnifying glass.

Safety Notes

Please be aware of stinging insects such as bees and wasps should not be collected. Do not look directly into the sunlight with a magnifying glass.

Site Conservation Notes:

Please be aware of the delicate nature and potential rarity of minibeasts such as butterflies and do not collect these, simply observe them in their natural environment. Do not keep the minibeasts in their pots for longer than necessary and always return them to their habitat, preferably the place where they were found, once you have finished looking at them.

Only one minibeast should be put in each pot as they could eat on another!

Links

www.naturedetectives.org.uk to download identification sheets, fact sheets and much more information about minibeasts.

Instructions

Quietly search around the woodlands, grasslands, scrub and soil of the various habitats in the Tees Heritage Park for the abundance of minibeasts that can be found here. Look under rocks, fallen branches and underneath leaf litter for those minibeasts that love the dark, damp places. Look underneath leaves and in the bark of trees for those minibeasts who feed on these. Look on flowers for nectar-loving insects and on the stalks of juicy plants for those that feed on sap.

When you have found your minibeast, use your net and / or pot to capture it. Replace the lid of your pot and use your magnifying glass to study it closely.

Things to note might be – How many legs does it have? How many body segments?
How is the colour related to its environment – is it camouflaged well? Does it have wings?
How does it move? How does it eat? How many eyes does it have and how are they formed?
Does it have antennae? How does it sense its environment? Where was it found?
How is it adapted to its environment?

Once you have looked at it thoroughly, draw a field sketch or take a photograph then identify it by looking at the identification sheets on www.naturedetectives.org.uk

