

Animal Adventure Session plan/ideas

<https://primarylibrary.crestawards.org/all-star-challenges/61746949/4>

In this activity, children will set up pitfall traps for minibeasts, bring some inside to study and identify, and learn about their habitats.

Plan

1. Introduce the activity by reading out the story on the activity card.
2. Ask the children what they think they'll be investigating based on the story.
3. Discuss which minibeasts children expect to find, where they might find them and how they could investigate.
4. Explain how to set up a pitfall trap. Ideally, the traps needs to be left for at least a few hours or overnight. The instructions and video here are a great guide: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-to-make-pitfall-trap-to-catch-insects.html>. To protect the trap from the rain, push the petri dish cover into the soil leaving some space above the beaker so that minibeasts can still access it.
5. After they've been left for at least a few hours, empty each pitfall trap into a tray and use the ID cards and eye glasses to study and identify any minibeasts.
6. Distribute the worksheets, and take photos or ask children to draw and describe what they find.
7. In groups or as a class, discuss their findings.
8. Suggest/discuss occupations and situations that might require the skills/knowledge they've developed e.g. zoologist, entomologist, habitat restoration engineer (<https://nustem.uk/primarycareers/#tab-id-2>)
9. Discuss related activities they could do (at home).
10. Give out stickers/stamps for their passport.
11. Carefully release the creatures and return the contents of the trap.

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Tips and safety

- Discuss handling/studying all animals with care, that it is best to observe animals in their natural environment. However, they can be taken inside for short periods, as long as they are treated with respect and returned to where they were found.
- Remind children that some people might be fearful of minibeasts and to not force anyone to do anything they don't want to.
- Ensure everyone washes their hands after setting up the traps and studying the contents.

Additional ideas/extension/home activities

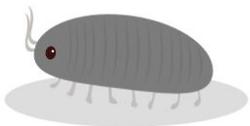
- Paint a picture, write a poem or make a model of the animals you find.
- Do a survey of the animals you can find at school or at home: record how many you find and where you find them. How could you record and present your results? Where did you find the most animals? Why do you think that is?
- Find out about someone that learns about animals as part of their job:
 - Interview someone in your family
 - Research animal scientists online, for example:
 - Tanesha Allen - zoologist, researches badger behaviour:
<https://www.oxfordsparks.ox.ac.uk/content/tanesha-allen>
 - Jane Goodall - animal research, studies chimpanzees:
<https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/jane-goodall>
 - What skills do you think they need? What do you like about their job? You could write a story about them or their work and present it to your family/friends/teacher.
- Get involved with Penguin Watch, a citizen science project where you count penguins in the photos taken by researchers to help understand their lives and environment: <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/penguintom79/penguin-watch>
- Check out Science Oxford's Creature Creations Challenge:
<https://scienceoxford.com/resources/science-oxford-challenges/creature-creations/>.
Can you create a creature new to science which is adapted to its environment?

Animal Adventure

Today we are thinking about **MINIBEASTS**

Draw a picture of some of the minibeasts you find. Write down as much as you can about them.

- Where did you find them?
- Do they have legs? If they do, how many?
- Do they have wings?
- Are they camouflaged or brightly coloured?
- Can you name them using the ID cards?





Animal Adventure

What jobs involve animals?



This is Tanesha, she is a ZOOLOGIST. She learns about animals, especially badgers! Can you spot the badgers in the picture above?

- ★ Can you think of any other jobs that involve animals?
- ★ Do you know anyone that works with animals?