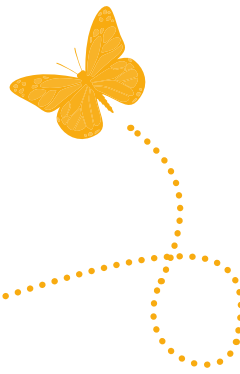


How insect-friendly is our school?



Action for Insects Session 3 — Lesson Plan

Key Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Complete a scientific survey of their school grounds.
- Identify where improvements can be made to the school grounds for insects.

Starter activity

- Explain that you are going to conduct a survey of insects (or a bug hunt even!). What do the students predict about what they will find on the school grounds and where? Record their ideas.

Resources

A google map of the school helps the conversation. Paper or whiteboard to record predictions.

Main activities

- Show the habitat images and ask students to identify which of those are present on their school grounds and which have more minibeasts.
- Discuss the best method for conducting a “bug hunt” using the techniques described in the “conducting a bug hunt” resource.
- Use the identification sheets and basic recording sheet to complete a hunt on the school grounds. For spotter sheets and information see links at the end of this guide.
- Collate information about what students find; where and how did it compare with spotter sheets? Submit your findings to your local record centre.

Session 3, resource 1 — Habitat images

Session 3, resource 2 — Conducting a bug hunt guide and recording sheet

Predictions from earlier

Plenary/summary

- Were any places better or worse than others? How could they be improved?

Their results and school map again.

Possible follow up

- Write up results and suggestions for improvements.

Useful links for finding out more

- wildlifewatch.org.uk/activities
- rbkc.gov.uk/PDF/Minbeasts%20pack.pdf (A complete guide to running a minibeast hunt — long but useful)
- schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Resources/Info-Sheet/Mini-Beast-Identification-Key (A basic identification flow chart)
- lostladybug.org/files/SweepNet09.pdf (How to make your own sweep net for surveying)
- amazon.co.uk/Minibeasts-Identification-Guide-Peter-Smithers/dp/0954025628 (A great book well-regarded by entomologists)