Investigating invertebrates

How to collect invertebrates

Give children a magnifier pot to collect the animals. Show them how to look carefully under a log and to make sure that they put it back in the same place. If there are trees, put a white sheet underneath and shake a branch gently. Demonstrate careful collection and put the animals back once they have looked at it.

Literacy challenges

Who am I?

Children write two sentences about their invertebrates using descriptive language. Provide a word bank of useful vocabulary. Read these sentences to the rest of the class – can they guess the animal?

Invertebrate fact file

Draw an invertebrate and label: number of legs, the colour, number of body parts and how it moves. Use these facts to write sentences about their invertebrate. Use these sentences to form a short narrative about the invertebrate.

What is it like to be a invertebrate?

Put the animal back into its habitat. Imagine where the animal will go when it is put back into its habitat. What will it be like under the log/ in the soil? How will it feel? What other animals might it meet?

Maths challenges

Invertebrate maths

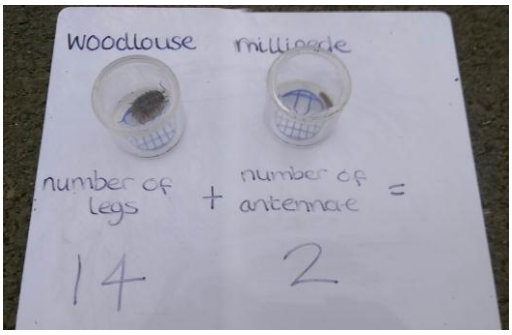
Give children simple sums to complete using the number of legs, body parts or antennae/tentacles that the invertebrate

has e.g.

spider legs + beetle legs = 14

beetle body parts + beetle legs + beetles antennae = 11

5 x beetles legs = 30



Animal Detectives

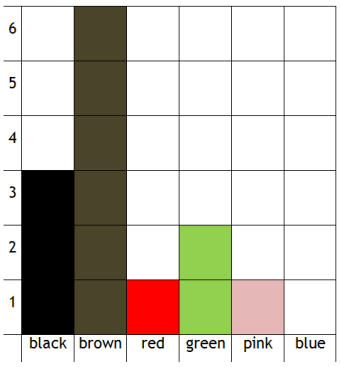
Name of animal	Number of body parts	Number of legs	Number of antennae/ tentacles
Ant 	3	6	2
Ground beetle 	3	6	2
Earwig 	3	6	2
Spider 	2	8	0
Woodlouse 	14	14	2
Millipede 	9 (but can have up to 200)	36 (but can have up to 400)	2
Centipede 	15 (but can have up to 167)	30 (but can have up to 354)	2
Slug 	1	0	4
Snail 	2	0	4
Earthworm 	100 (but can have up to 150)	0	0

Invertebrate statistics

Collect data about the invertebrates they found, e.g. number of legs, colour and record in a simple table using a tally. Put the data collected into a simple pictogram or block diagram.

Colour of animal	Tally
black	
brown	
red	
green	
pink	

What colour is your invertebrate?



SUNTRAP Forest Education Centre

WF Traded Services
SUNTRAP FOREST EDUCATION CENTRE

Quality Badge awarded by Council for Learning Outside the Classroom

Waltham Forest