# Investigating invertebrates

## How to collect invertebrates

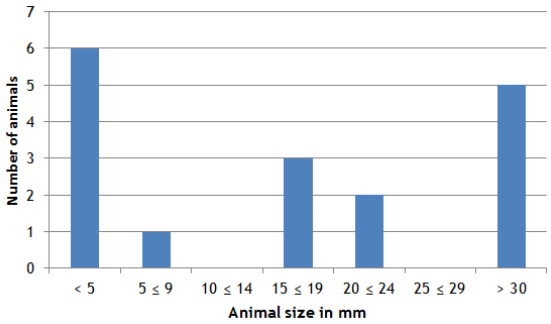
Give children a magnifying pot. Show them how to turn over logs and leaves and pick up the animals carefully. Ensure that logs are put back in the same place. If there are trees, put a white sheet underneath and shake a branch gently. Return the animals to the same place after they have been studied.

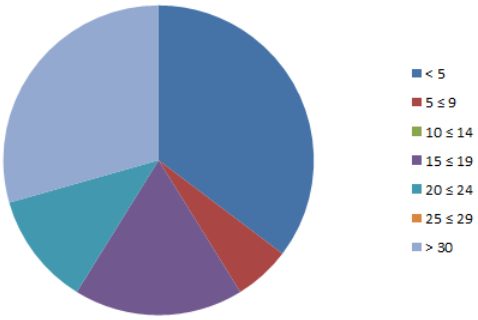
## Maths activities

### Invertebrate statistics

Collect invertebrates and record information about them in a table, e.g. colour, movement or length. Present and interpret the information in a pie chart or bar chart. Children could measure each animal, calculate the average length of the animals and/or compile a tally chart of animal length categories.

| Animal size (mm) | Tally |
|---|---|
| < 5 | |
| 5 ≤ 9 | |
| 10 ≤ 14 | |
| 15 ≤ 19 | |
| 20 ≤ 24 | |
| 25 ≤ 29 | |
| > 30 | |




## Literacy activities

### Invertebrate modelling

Build a 3D model (using paper, wire or pipe cleaners, elastic, plasticine, containers) of the invertebrate to specifically represent how it moves or feeds, and use the model to demonstrate and describe this to either a friend or the rest of the class.

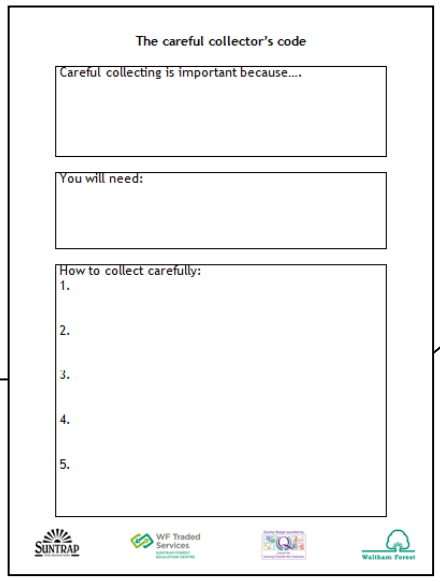
## The careful collector's code

This writing frame helps pupils to set out instructions for others to follow on how collect invertebrates from underneath logs.

The introduction should summarise why it is important to collect carefully, e.g. to conserve animals because of their important role in the decomposition cycle and in food chains.

They could include the following instructions and might prioritise their importance:

- Make sure you are collecting in something that will keep the animal safe until it is returned.
- Turn logs and leaves over carefully.
- Pick up animals carefully.
- Always put logs and leaves back as you find them.
- Never damage the habitat.
- Always return the animals after you have studied them.



The careful collector's code

Careful collecting is important because….

You will need:

How to collect carefully:

1.

2.

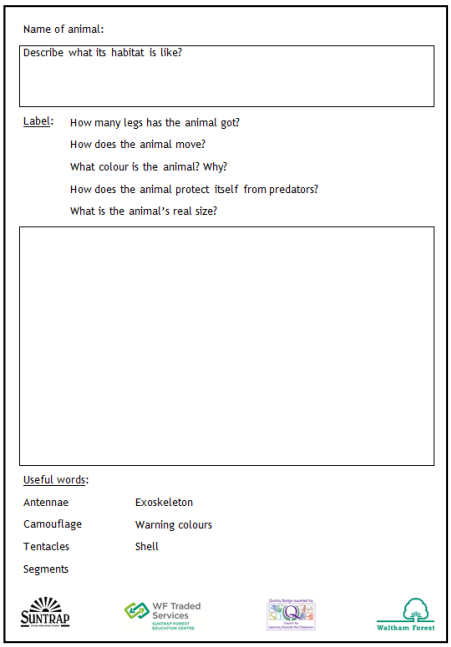
3.

4.

5.

## Invertebrate scientific drawing

Children select an invertebrate of their choice from the leaf litter habitat and put it into a magnifying pot. Observe the animal and draw it in as much detail as possible with a faint pencil to include all the features. Label the different features and include the scale.



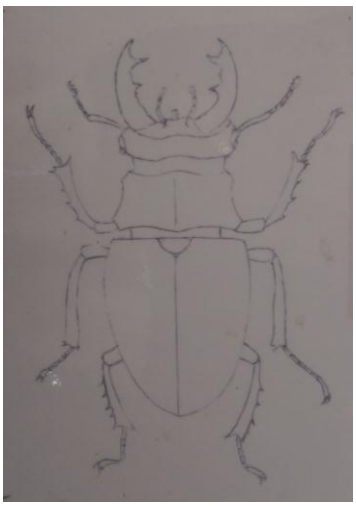
Name of animal:

Describe what its habitat is like?

Label: How many legs has the animal got?
How does the animal move?
What colour is the animal? Why?
How does the animal protect itself from predators?
What is the animal's real size?

Useful words:

| | |
|---|---|
| Antennae | Exoskeleton |
| Camouflage | Warning colours |
| Tentacles | Shell |
| Segments | |



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