

Woodland invertebrate classification and food chains – half day option

In Epping Forest, children will collect invertebrates from a woodland floor habitat and bring them back to the classroom for closer observation and study. They will have the opportunity to use microscopes and keys to identify and group the invertebrates. They will then use the invertebrates to construct food chains.

Learning objectives

- to use classification keys to group, identify and name living things from the woodland floor habitat
- to explore the reasons why an animal is in a particular group
- to construct and understand food chains from a woodland floor habitat
- to understand their role to help look after the woodland habitats by leaving the area as it is found



Some suggestions for visit preparation

1. Introduce important vocabulary; *habitat, predator, prey, producer, consumer, herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, invertebrate, vertebrate*.
2. Use simple keys to sort pictures of living things.

Follow on suggestions

1. Set up some equally sized “refuges” for woodlice in the school grounds e.g. piece of carpet, clear Perspex, piece of wood. Place them on grass, soil, tarmac etc. Find out which microhabitat the woodlice prefer.
2. Create a guide explaining how to help to protect the forest.

National curriculum links

Y4 Science

Living things and their habitats

- recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways
- explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment
- recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things

Animals, including humans

- construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey





EVENT SPECIFIC RISK ASSESSMENT



Visit details: Woodland invertebrate classification and food chains

Carried out by: Suntrap Centre

Date: Dec 2017

Issue	How to manage it
Understanding/behaviour	Class teacher to advise Suntrap staff of any children who may need extra support out in the forest to help them to follow instructions. School to ensure that there is appropriate adult: children ratios as required.
Medical conditions	Suntrap staff to check that school staff brings medication out into the forest. All adults to be made aware of any medical conditions. Suntrap staff will carry a first aid kit.
Getting lost	Keep within sight of teacher/adult & observe boundaries as directed by the staff.
Choking/Poisoning	No eating outside unless directly instructed by Suntrap staff.
Falling branches	During extreme weather conditions Suntrap staff will make an assessment to ensure it is safe to enter the forest.
Injury from horses/dogs or bikes	Group to be instructed to stand to the side, be quiet and still when horses, dogs or bikes are near.
Accident when crossing the road	Group to be instructed on follow safe procedures for crossing roads (Suntrap Line). No one to walk across the cattle grid.
Injury through falling & throwing	Climbing of trees and throwing sticks/stones prohibited.
Getting wet/cold	Clothing should be appropriate for weather conditions. i.e hat, coat and gloves. Wellies should be worn when walking through stream.
Soil borne disease	Children instructed not to put fingers in mouth during/after activities which include handling plants, soil and sticks. Hands should be washed with warm soapy water before eating lunch/snack. Tables to be wiped with disinfectant before eating if animals/soil on tables.
Animal bite/stings	Suntrap staff to make children aware of animals that are not safe to collect, e.g. red ants, wasps.