



Mini Beast Safari Record Sheet....

Where do mini beasts live in Ridge Wood?

| | Under logs and stones | In leaf litter | In the soil | On trees and plants | Other |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------|-------|
| Slugs | | | | | |
| Snails | | | | | |
| Worms | | | | | |
| Wood louse | | | | | |
| Spiders | | | | | |
| Ants | | | | | |
| Beetles | | | | | |
| Earwigs | | | | | |
| Centipede | | | | | |
| Millipede | | | | | |
| Other | | | | | |

How many different types of mini beasts did you find?

Where were most of the most mini beasts you found living?



Mini beast Safari teacher's notes

Safari tips:

- Discuss the needs for life of living things – food, water, shelter, air. Discuss the needs of mini beasts and the conditions in which they are likely to thrive and where we are likely to find mini beasts living in the woodland.
- Demonstrate how to collect mini beasts safely.
- Excellent child friendly easy to use laminated guides are available from the **Field Studies Council** which enable pupils to identify mini beasts using simple picture keys. The FSC 'Woodland Name Trail' is the guide for this project and only costs a few pounds. Visit www.field-studies-council.org/publications

Mini beast care recommendations:

- Emphasise the importance of collecting and handling mini beasts with great care.
- If possible use small paintbrushes and spoons to carefully collect mini beasts prior to placing in pots for viewing. Mini beasts do not like to be held in hot hands as they dry out quickly.
- Return mini beasts as soon as possible back to where they were found and ensure any logs or stones are carefully returned to original position.

Extension ideas:

- Create mini beast clay monsters using clay and materials found in the woodland.
- Create a giant land art mini beast using found materials in the woodland – research land art by professional artists eg Andy Goldsworthy and Richard Long.
- Run a mini beast safari in your school grounds or another contrasting habitat and compare your findings.
- Play woodland food chain or food web games to enable children to appreciate the importance of mini beasts in the woodland ecosystem.
- Read the excellent 'Harry the Poisonous Centipede' by Lynne Reid Banks to inspire children as to the realities of life as a mini beast! Encourage pupils to write their own stories and adventures imagining that they are a mini beast living in Ridge Wood!