

## Information Sheet

# Minibeasts KS1

This activity introduces children to a variety of minibeasts, their adaptations and lifestyles.

### Curriculum Links

**Unit 1A Ourselves** – body parts, senses, growth and change, how animals move, making observations.

**Unit 2B Plants and animals** – Animal names, Looking for plants and animals, using drawings to represent animals, reproduction and growth.

**Unit 2C Variation** – Naming of features, Grouping of animals and plants, recording plants and animals.

### At the end of the Session children will have..

Investigated minibeasts from a minimum of three different habitats.

Made comparative observations and drawings

### What happens in the session

Children will investigate minibeasts from a variety of different habitats – including both land and pond minibeasts. Habitats that we investigate can include: Grassland, Hedgerows, Trees, Leaf Litter, Log Piles and ponds.

A number of different collection techniques will be taught these may include: sweep netting, tree beating, pond dipping and quiet hunting. (the habitats investigated and the time of year will dictate which of these techniques will be employed.)

We encourage the use of keys to identify creature collected. If you wish to use worksheets the children will be asked to observe creatures carefully, draw them and answer questions about them.

### Suggested follow-up activities

Children could use their experiences to create their own ‘choice tree’ a simple key that they could use to identify creatures.

Make cards for minibeast snap or bingo. Using their drawings to identify creatures.

### Session Length

Shorter sessions of 30mins to 1 hour can run using pre-collected land and water minibeasts. Longer session lengths allow children time to collect the animals themselves and investigate the different habitats that they live in.

Minibeast investigation sessions are often paired with our popular Teddy Bear’s Picnic sessions.

If you wanted to investigate habitats as well as minibeasts thoroughly we would recommend a full day activity, where we can spend a morning session investigating a couple of habitats and their minibeasts fully, and an afternoon session investigating and comparing two more.