



# The Microworld of Minibeasts:

## Bugs and their habitats

### Key Stage 1

#### Length of Session:

**90 minutes:** 45 min object handling session followed by 45 minute self-guided trail in the Museum.

#### Maximum group size:

32 children plus 4 members of staff.

## Session outline

- What makes a 'bug' a 'bug'?
- We investigate a range of different bugs, both carnivores and herbivores; how they grow and which micro-habitats they inhabit.
- Discover why our lives are dependent on roles that insects play; from nutrient recycling to pollination and food sources for other animals.
- Admire some of the amazing specimens from our huge entomology collection.
- Children who would like to get a really close look can join in with live bug handling!



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#### National Curriculum Areas:

**Science:** Animals, including humans; Living things and their habitats; Plants.



### Suggestions for pre-visit activities

- Make a list of all the bug names the children know.
- Survey your school fields for bugs. How many different kinds can you find and where do you find them?
- Leg count; can your children find an animal with 2,4,6,8 and more legs? Who can find the animal with the most?

### Suggestions for post-visit activities

- Make 3D minibeasts from clay or junk.
- Make minibeast mobiles.
- Find out how many foods in your kitchen are created by pollinating insects.
- Build bee boxes or a minibeast mansion from pallets and plants to increase the biodiversity of bugs in your playground.
- Plant flowers to attract pollinators. Buglife and the RHS have some great suggestions on their websites, just look up 'Plants for Pollinators' or 'Plan Bee'.
- Visit the Learning Zone on our website and identify any insect you find with our interactive keys at: <http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/thezone/insects/index.htm>

### Learning Outcomes

- Knowledge of the common structures that identify different minibeasts.
- The ability to identify and classify some common minibeasts.
- Understanding that different minibeasts are adapted to different microhabitats.
- Knowledge that minibeasts provide essential services in ecosystems; from pollination and nutrient recycling to food sources for other animals in the food chain.
- That minibeasts grow and change over time.



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For further details and to book your visit, contact:

**[education@oum.ox.ac.uk](mailto:education@oum.ox.ac.uk)**