

British Insects and their Habitats

Upper KS 2

Length of Session:

2 hours: 1 hour object handling session followed by 1 hour self-guided trail in the Museum.

Maximum group size:

32 children plus 4 members of staff.

Session outline

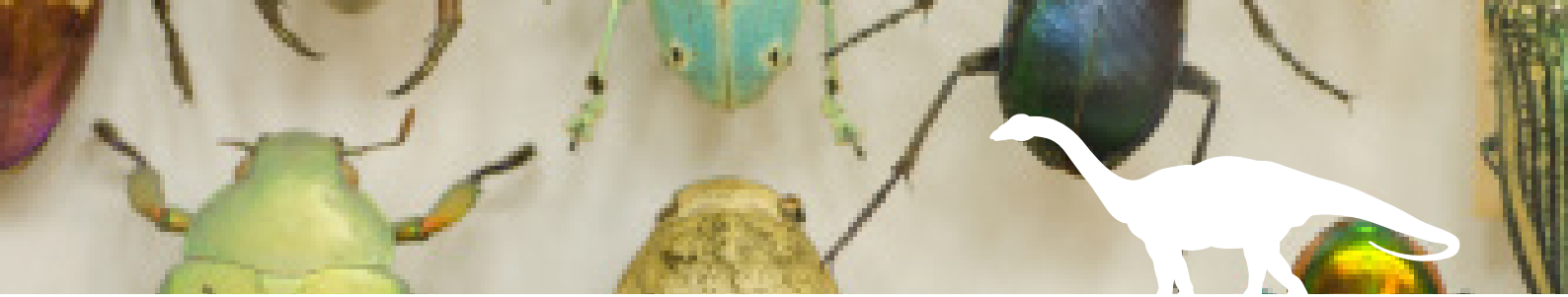
- Discover why our lives are dependent on roles that insects play; from nutrient recycling to pollination and food sources for other animals.
- By identifying some common British insects and learning about their food plants and lifecycles, children consider the types of habitats that they need to exist in and, using groups of insects found in different areas, fill in a map of habitats in the fictional village of Little Piddleton.
- The children learn how everyone has a part to play in managing biodiversity and how we can all influence it for better or worse.



National Curriculum Areas:

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

Geography: interdependence of key physical and human features



Suggestions for pre-visit activities

- Make a grid map of the different habitats in your school grounds.
- Make predictions of how many types of insect you'll find in each grid square.
- Survey your school fields for bugs. How many different kinds can you find and where do you find them? Do the results match your predictions?

Suggestions for post-visit activities

- Review the habitats in your school grounds and discuss what you could do to make them more insect friendly.
- Look at the habitats around the school and discuss who owns/manages them and if they are insect friendly or not.
- Discuss how you can influence others in society to increase Britain's biodiversity.
- Visit our Hope for the Future web pages for loads of exciting insect teaching and learning resources at <https://oumnh.ox.ac.uk/hope-future-project-learning>

Learning Outcomes

- The ability to identify some common British insects, their foods and their habitats.
- Understanding that different insects 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.
- Understanding that humans directly affect biodiversity for better or worse through both individual and societal decisions and actions.