



Life in the Undergrowth

Key Stage 2

Length of Session:

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

Maximum group size:

32 children plus 4 members of staff.

Session outline

- Investigate bug anatomy and classification and discover the essential role that insects play for life on the planet.
- Learn about the secret lives in the micro-habitats of the insects and how they are adapted to them.
- Children are challenged to use our bug keys to identify the seven commonest insects found in Oxfordshire schools.
- Plus, a chance to get really close and join in with some live bug handling!



National Curriculum Areas:

- **Science:** Scientific enquiry; Plants; Living things and their habitats; Animals, including humans; Evolution and inheritance.



Museum of
**Natural
History**

University of Oxford



Suggestions for pre-visit activities

- Survey your school grounds for habitat types and record the numbers and varieties of bugs you find in each locations. Use a chart or graph to find out which the richest habitats are in terms of number or diversity of bugs.
- Compare the body shape and structure of the variety of bugs that you find. Use magnifying glasses or microscopes to look really carefully!

Suggestions for post-visit activities

- Investigate how habitats can change and how this might affect the bugs that live in them and the food chains that depend upon them.
- Make a list of all the foods that are produced by insect pollination and see how many children can find in their fridges and store cupboards at home.
- 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

- Understanding that the term 'Bug' generally refers to 'Arthropods'.
- Knowledge that there are four major Arthropod groups.
- Understanding of the basic features that place an arthropod into each of these groups.
- Appreciation that ecosystems, food chains and human life depends upon the ecosystem services of bugs.
- Knowledge that different bugs are adapted to different roles in different micro-habitats.
- Practice of close observation, analytical and scientific enquiry skills and appropriate scientific language.

