

## Find a Bug

**This activity helps find mini-beasts under leaves, stones and logs**

- Ask the children why they think mini-beasts prefer to live under leaves, stones and logs. Explain that they are protected in such places from predators. Ensure all children know what these predators might be, e.g. birds, badgers.
- The children should work in pairs. Each pair should have a looking jar which comes complete with a magnifying glass.
- Set out a white tray. Instruct the children to bring any finds back to this tray. They must place the mini-beasts carefully into the tray by kneeling down so as the creature does not have a huge distance to fall. Explain to the pupils that once the mini-beast has been placed in the tray, it must not be removed until the supervisor says so.
- Once the children have emptied their jar, they may return to the site to continue looking for more mini-beasts.
- After a certain amount of time, roughly 15 minutes, gather the children around so as they all have a chance to see what everyone has found. Try to identify using the ID sheet.
- After discussing the mini-beasts, ask the children what they should do with them. Hopefully they will wish to replace them back in their native habitat. Explain to the class that it is important they are returned as this is the only place they will survive. It is therefore important that these wild areas are kept.



**Pupils searching for mini-beasts under the soil - they use paint brushes to help protect the small creatures**

# Find a Bug

## This activity helps find mini-beasts on leaves—Tree Tapping

Place a large white sheet on the ground under a tree branch or use tree tapping nets.

Explain to the class that mini-beasts can also live on leaves.

They are to gently tap the branch of the tree until the small creatures fall onto the sheet / net.

Once all pupils have had a turn, ask them all to gather round the sheet, having a close look at each. Try to identify using the ID sheet.

Discuss each mini-beast in turn before carefully turning the sheet / net upside down and shaking it in order to release the creature. This must be done with extreme care.



**Shaking the  
leaves whilst in  
camouflage**