

Bug Hunting Code



Before you start

1. Identify a good bug hunting area (this could be an area of grassland, woodland or your back yard) and get permission from the landowners and from your teachers, parents or another responsible adult.
2. Find your old clothes, old shoes or wellies and some suitable collecting pots.
3. Bring a butterfly or sweep net and a beating tray (or piece of white cloth) with you if you have them.

In the field

4. Have a look under any logs or stones to see if you can find any creatures. Once you have moved a log or a stone, make sure you put it back again.
5. Try and scoop bugs up with your pot so that you don't have to handle them too much or use a pooter to suck them up if you can.
6. Look carefully in all the cracks, there may be bugs hiding in between paving slabs or under the bark of a tree.
7. If you have a butterfly net, try and catch one as they fly by. Don't keep them in pots for long though as you may damage their wings.
8. If you have a sweep net, sweep it through the long grass. Fold your net over as you bring it back so that you don't lose your bugs (Be careful of nettles and brambles).
9. Use a beating tray (or piece of cloth) to hold under a tree while you shake a branch above and any bugs should fall out (Be careful of people's eyes, when shaking branches)

When you have finished

1. Gently let creatures go back to their homes. Try and put them as close as possible to the area that you found them.
2. Leave the area, exactly how you found it.
3. Wash your hands



Photo from Philip Precey