



Minibeasts and Leaves

Potato trap

Age: 7-14

Topic: Biodiversity

Time: 1-2 hours

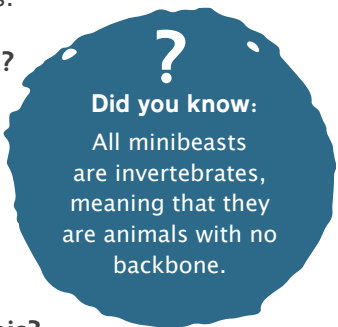


What should learners already know?

- Minibeasts are small invertebrates which come from many different groups.
- Minibeasts live all around us.

What equipment will I need?

- A whole potato
- Knife
- Spoon
- Rubber band
- Toothpick



How will learners explore this?

1. You may want to make multiple potato traps within your class, and leave them in different areas of the school grounds for comparison.
2. Cut a potato in half lengthwise and dig out the halves.
3. Make an entrance at each end by cutting out a channel and reassembling the halves using toothpicks or rubber bands.
4. Place the potato on or in the ground with the entrance holes at ground level. Leave the potato outside overnight.
5. Examine the potato trap and see if there are any minibeasts in the trap or if you can see traces of any.
6. Put the potatoes back in the soil and leave them for a few days.
7. Do you see the same species or do you find new ones?

How can we show the learning?

- What species of minibeasts were attracted to the potato trap?
- Minibeasts such as woodlice, harvestmen (or daddy longlegs), snails and slugs eat plant parts, so are the most likely to be found in the trap.
- Ask children to describe the minibeasts they found in the potato trap. Are these minibeasts that you have seen elsewhere in school grounds?
- If you set up multiple potato traps:
 - Challenge children by asking them to compare the different minibeast species which were found in each part of the school grounds.
 - Can children think of some reasons why we might see different minibeasts in different places?



If you would like to develop your outdoor learning knowledge and skills, take a look at our range of training courses: ltl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training

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