



## Minibeasts and Leaves

# Cardboard minibeast trap

Age: 7-14

Topic: Biology

Time: 1 hour



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### What should learners already know?

- Minibeasts are small animals with no backbone. They are a very diverse group with lots of different families.

### What equipment will I need?

- Corrugated cardboard
- Scissors
- String
- Magnifying glass
- A plate or white cloth

### How will learners explore this?

1. Fold a piece of corrugated cardboard a few times or cut it into pieces and fold together so that there are a few layers.
2. Tie the corrugated cardboard a bit up on a tree trunk.
3. Feel free to make two traps.
4. Try to set one up so that the corrugated cardboard tubes lie horizontally on the tree trunk and vertically on the other.
5. The trap can be left undisturbed for a few days before it is examined.
6. When removing the trap, gently shake or disassemble the paper over a tray with an edge or a white cloth.
7. Study the minibeasts for a while before releasing them again. Use a magnifying glass for this.

**Study the minibeasts you have caught using the questions:**

Which animals are in the trap? Are these similar or different to the minibeasts you have collected elsewhere in school grounds? Does it matter where on the trunk the trap is located?

### How can we show the learning?

- How many minibeasts did you find? How many different species did you find?
- If you set up multiple traps, were there any differences in the numbers and types of minibeasts you caught in each trap?
- Challenge the children by asking them to compare the minibeasts found in this trap to other minibeasts you have caught in school grounds (i.e in the potato trap).
- Can the children think of some reasons why different minibeasts are found in different habitats?



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[ltl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training](http://ltl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training)

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