



Minibeasts and Leaves

Discover cobwebs

Age: 7-14

Topic: Biology

Time: 30 minutes

What should learners already know?

- Many species of spiders make webs.

What equipment will I need?

- Spray bottle
- Camera

How will learners explore this?

1. Look for different types of cobwebs in the schoolyard.
2. For example, you can find orb-webs under window sills or by the house wall. Hammock-webs and funnel-webs can be found among bushes and tall grass.
3. Spray gently with a spray bottle on the cobwebs to see the structures better.
4. It is also easy to see the webs if there is dew outside.
5. Photograph the cobwebs so you can compare different designs.
6. These photos can also become beautiful works of art. Encourage children to photograph as many webs as they can around the school grounds.
7. Why not display your photos in the classroom?

How can we show the learning?

- Ask children to describe where in the school grounds they found the most spiders' webs. Were there lots in the same place or were they spread around the school?
- Ask children to describe the intricate structure of the webs they found. What do we usually associate cobwebs with? Have children found that the webs are more beautiful than they might first expect?
- Use this as a time to discuss with children why spiders are unique and important:
 - Spiders are found almost everywhere. Some of them easily reveal their location with their cobwebs.
 - With the help of spinnerets that sit at the back end of the spider, they spin a thin thread that is used to build a sticky web.
 - There are spiders that do not build a web, for example jumping spiders, that run and jump after their prey.
 - Spiders are important food for birds and smaller mammals. As an extension, link this to the food web learning from the start of the year. What animals in your school grounds ecosystem might eat spiders?



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