



Minibeasts and Leaves

Discover spiders

Age: 7-14

Topic: Biology

Time: 1 hour



Learning
through
Landscapes

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

© This activity sheet was created by the Learning through Landscapes Trust.
Registered charity no. in England and Wales 803270 and in Scotland SC038890

What should learners already know?

- Spiders are minibeasts, and are an important part of our ecosystems.

What equipment will I need?

- Small jars or bug pots
- Magnifying glasses
- Sweep nets

How will learners explore this?

1. Examine which spiders are in the schoolyard.
2. Collect a few different spiders. It is easiest with the help of a sweep net.
3. Study their different body parts with a magnifying glass. Ask children to look closely at the spiders they have caught, and answer the following questions:
 - What does the spider's body look like?
 - Where on the body are the legs?
 - How many legs does it have?
 - How many body parts does it have?
 - How many eyes does it have?
4. As an extension, you may want to encourage children to draw and label some of the spiders they have found.

How can we show the learning?

- Ask the children to describe how all the spiders you found looked. Do they look similar or different?
- Between different spiders, can children describe which features of anatomy looked different? Did some spiders have long legs, and others have larger abdomens?
- 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?



Co-funded by
the European Union



LUND
UNIVERSITY



LUNDS
KOMMUN



Naturskolan
i Lund



SEO
BirdLife



BirdLife
MALTA