

Mini-beast Explorers



Duration: 1½ hours approx. – max group size 30
National Curriculum – **Key Stage 1**
Available: April - September (weather dependant)*

The Visit Aims

- To ask the children to ‘predict’ where the best places are to find mini-beasts and what the mini-beast needs from its habitat.
- To explore some of those habitats and use simple equipment correctly to catch some of the mini-beasts living there.
- To carefully observe the mini-beasts and describe the habitats in which they were found.
- To identify some of the common mini-beasts and group them according to observable features.
- To construct simple food chain example
- To summarise by discussing the children’s findings.

The Visit

The introduction will discuss “What is a minibeast?” – “Where can we find them?” and “What do they do?”

Responsibilities towards other living things will be discussed and the children will be asked what they understand from the words ‘animal’ and ‘plant’ and ensure that common mini-beasts and trees are included in their discussions.

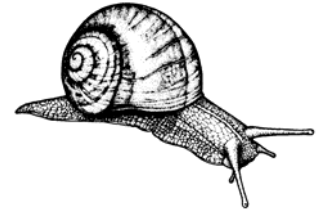
The children become ‘Minibeast Explorers’ using their powers of observation to explore a range of habitats and search out the best places to find and catch a variety of mini-beasts. They will use their observations to help sort and group the mini-beasts. Simple keys and picture cards will help identify organisms found.

Before setting off on the ‘hunt’ safety aspects will be specified and the students will be given boundaries in which to work. Responsibilities towards other living things will also be discussed

With the help of adults, the children will be asked to record details of their finds and habitats on our ‘mini-beast’ recording sheets.

At the end of the visit a summary of the children’s findings will be discussed and all ‘catches’ will be carefully and safely returned to their habitats. (*Hand-cleansing gel will be provided*)

Mini-beast Explorers



Background Information

Croxteth Hall was the former home of the Earls of Sefton. After the death of the last Earl in 1972 the Hall and its estate was bequeathed to the City of Liverpool. The Country Park now consists of 215 hectares of gardens, open parkland, pasture and woodland offering a wide variety of habitats for minibeasts eg leaf litter, rotting wood etc, all within easy walking distance from the Hall.

Visit Resources

- Mini-beast recording sheet.
- All required equipment / scoopers, trays, magnifiers.
- Picture information cards and simple keys.
- Clip boards & pencils

Visit Notes

Supervision - For every visit it is necessary to have sufficient adults with your group to comply with your LEA guidelines.

Risk Assessments - are available for all guided visits.

Timing - Most visits last for approx 1.5 hours. Please refer to the notes provided for your visit for times and starting points. We suggest you arrive 15 minutes in advance of your visit to allow for parking, payment, toilet trips, etc

Toilets - are in the courtyard by the Café.

Parking - The main entrance and coach park is off Muirhead Avenue East. The coach park is about 300m from the Hall. You may be advised to park near the Hall only with prior arrangement.

Charge - £3.80 per child (minimum charge, £95.00 per group).

Payment - Please make payment on the day of the visit at the gift shop at the front of the Hall. Please make payment to **Croxteth Hall & Country Park**.

Clothing - Please ensure students wear outdoor clothing and footwear appropriate for the weather and time of year.

Further Information about this and other visits are detailed on our 'Learning Opportunities' website www.croxteth.co.uk/education

Customer Feedback Forms- please fill in and return our feedback survey sheets. We welcome evaluation and constructive comments on your visit.

Liverpool City Council Parks & Greenspaces

**Ranger Interpretation Service, Croxteth Hall & Country Park, Croxteth Hall Lane,
Liverpool L12 0HB**

Tel 0151 233 6910 (Gen Office), 0151 233 6912/6915 (RIS Team) fax 0151 233 6906