



## *Teacher's Notes*

# MINIBEAST DETECTIVES (KS2)

*Duration: 1½ hours. Available: April - September.*

Science Unit 4B: Habitats

Science Unit 6A: Interdependence and adaptation

Citizenship Unit 03 section 2: How do we look after animals

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## *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 surrounding estate was bequeathed to The City of Liverpool.

The estate now consists of 530 acres of pasture, gardens and woodland and offers a wide variety of habitats for minibeasts eg leaf litter, rotting wood, green leaves etc, all within easy walking distance from the Hall.

## *Resources Available*

- *Minibeast Recording Sheet - KS2*
- *Minibeast 'field equipment' (pooters, trays, magnifiers, thermometers etc)*
- *Identification keys and information cards*

## *Visit Notes*

**Supervision** - for every guided visit it is necessary to have sufficient adults with your class to comply with your LEA guidelines.

**Timing** - sessions start at 10.00am and 1.00pm (unless otherwise arranged). We would suggest that you arrive 15 minutes in advance of your session to allow time for parking, payment , etc.

**Parking** - all school parties should arrive via the main entrance off Muirhead Avenue East and park in the public car park. The Hall is a 300 metre walk from the car park.

**Health and Hygiene** - it is important that the children wash their hands after the visit.

**Clothing** - all participants must wear suitable outdoor clothing with strong shoes or boots - waterproofs are recommended in case of inclement weather.

**Charge** - please refer to the current Education Opportunities booklet, booking form or web pages.

**Payment** - make payment at Hall Admissions on arrival at the front of the Hall. Cheques payable to 'Croxteth Hall & Country Park'

**Further information** - about this visit and other facilities are detailed in the 'Education Opportunities' booklet available from Croxteth Hall & Country Park or [www.croxteth.co.uk/education](http://www.croxteth.co.uk/education)

**Feedback** - we welcome evaluation and constructive comments on your visit. Please return the feedback form provided - it will help us to monitor and develop our programmes to ensure their quality and relevance.



The City of Liverpool

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Citizenship Unit 03 section 2 - How do we look after animals

### *The Visit Aims*

- To ensure the children consider aspects of personal safety when working outside in 'the countryside'. To introduce the Countryside Code.
- to develop a responsible and caring attitude towards the environment and the organisms that live in it
- to identify a variety of habitats (of a similar scale) in the park and predict which would be good for minibeasts to live in
- to carefully collect, observe and record a variety of animals living in the chosen habitats
- to identify similarities and differences between organisms caught, and to group them accord to observable features
- to measure, describe and record some of the physical conditions of the habitats investigated
- to introduce simple identification keys and research simple facts about the minibeast caught - what it eats and what eats it
- to introduce simple food chains
- to summarise by discussing the children's findings

### *The Visit*

It is useful if the class can be divided into five groups, each with an adult leader (to assist in recording etc). We will talk about safety aspects and give the children boundaries in which to work. We will discuss responsibilities towards other living things.

The introduction will discuss "What is a minibeast?" - "Where can we find them?" and "What do they do?" Habitats will be discussed in terms of scale and suitability for minibeasts.

The children become 'Minibeast Detectives'. Using their powers of observation and specialist equipment (pooters, magnifiers, thermometers etc) to explore a range of habitats within our woodland setting, they search out the best places to find and catch a variety of minibeasts. They will piece together clues from their observations to help them sort and group the minibeasts. Deductions about feeding habits will allow them to construct simple food chains - simple identification keys, clue cards with pictures and information will help them.

All the information will be carefully recorded to help provide evidence of the wide variety of minibeasts in our woodland habitats. Differences between habitats might be seen in the summing up. This evidence can then be used back at school to compare our woodland habitats with say the school yard habitats - what are the differences - and why?

The visit will be concluded by a discussion of the group's findings.