



High Weald Hero Activity Card

Marvellous Minibeasts



Equipment: Magnifying pots, plastic cutlery, pencils, paper, habitat field guide/identification keys

Location: This activity should be repeated in a variety of habitats - choose meadows, woodlands, heathland, etc., and compare your findings

Audience: KS1 & 2

Time: 45 minutes

Fieldwork that helps children to compare different habitats and the creatures found in each

Activity Description:

1. Take the children to chosen habitat e.g. patch of heathland. Individually, or in pairs, allow the children time to hunt for minibeasts. Help them to look closely e.g. under stones, on different plants, in piles of leaves. Use plastic cutlery to collect the creatures and the magnifying pots to examine them closely.
2. If there are scattered trees or bushes, try holding a plain piece of paper underneath and shaking or tapping the branches. Minibeasts will fall onto the paper.
3. Alternatively, a sweep net can be used (particularly good for grassland) - walk along gently sweeping the net backwards and forwards through vegetation.
4. Children should try and find a minibeast from at least 2 different habitats. Pose the following questions for each to allow discussion and further thought:

- Can you name or describe your minibeast?
- What habitat was it found in?
- What does it eat?
- How many legs does it have?
- Are its legs long or short?
- How does it move?
- Can it fly?
- What shape is its body?
- How is it adapted to living in this habitat?



5. Encourage the children to take photos or draw the minibeasts that they have found

High Weald Teaching Point: The High Weald's rolling hills are draped with small, irregular fields - largely edged with ancient woodland or hedgerows and often containing flower-rich grassland. Colourful areas of heath, with patches of purple heather and yellow gorse, are found on the high, sandy ridges. The pattern of small, irregular fields grew out of the way the High Weald was settled, and is the result of the patient work of many small farmers, clearing space by hand for rearing animals or growing crops.

Activity adapted from Ashford Green Corridor Education Pack



Check out the Learning Zone at www.highweald.org