

## **Bug hunt**

### **Objectives:**

- To familiarise children with insects and for them not to be fearful of handling them.
- To identify different habitats and invertebrate families
- To understand the role of insects in ecosystems

### **Resources required:**

- Hand lenses, transparent containers with lids
- White trays
- Spoons to pick up invertebrates
- Photocopied identification sheets (basic ones in Nature detectives).

### **Lesson plan**

1. What insects do we expect to find in different habitats? On trees, in grassland, in the earth, under logs, in leaf litter, in the organic garden.
2. Search in different habitats. Grassland, under tree, in soil.
  - Write down the habitat type, characteristics of the habitat and species found there.
  - Where might they fit into a food web? Are they carnivores, omnivores, herbivores or decomposers?
3. Draw a food web for that habitat type including animals and birds. Who eats who?

**Bug hunt data collection sheet**

**Habitat type (circle):**

Grassland          woodland          garden

**List the species found and the number:**

Species name	Why is this insect important?	How many?

**Draw a food web including the species you have found and the following birds and animals that are found at Bawdsey.**

**Birds:** Blackbirds, robin, sparrow, woodpecker, sparrow hawk, Kestrel

**Mammals:** mouse, vole, fox, squirrel, rabbit

**Bug hunt (answers)**

**Habitat type (circle):**

Grassland            woodland            garden

**List the species found and the number:**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Why is this insect important?</b>	<b>How many?</b>
woodlice	It breaks down dead wood	
worms	Decomposes dead animals and plants	
ladybirds	Eats aphids and other pests	
Centipede (can bite, don't handle)	Feeds on other insects	
Millipede (two sets of legs on each body segment)	Feeds on dead plants and animals	
ants	Insects, dead animals, vegetation, fruit	
earwig	Decaying plant and animal matter, other insects	

**Draw a food web including the species you have found and the following birds and animals that are found at Bawdsey.**

**Birds:** Blackbirds, robin, sparrow, woodpecker, sparrow hawk, Kestrel

**Mammals:** mouse, vole, fox, squirrel, rabbit

**Include and oak tree and grass**