

Outdoor & Woodland Learning Activity Sheet

Activity:	OPAL – Bugs Count Survey resources							
Habitat:	Woodland, Garden, Moorland, Croftland	Season:	S	✓	S	✓	A	W

Level	
Early	
First	
Second	✓
Third and Fourth	✓
Senior Phase	✓

Curriculum topics			
Expressive Arts		Health and Wellbeing	✓
Languages	✓	Mathematics	✓
Religious & Moral Ed		Sciences	✓
Social Studies		Technology	

Time
1-2 hours

Equipment*
“Before we start” sheet
OPAL ID guide
OPAL Survey Booklet
OPAL Survey Sheet
OPAL species quest ID guide
Magnifying glass
Jar/Pooter/Tray
Pencil and paper
Camera

Key outcomes
Learn what an invertebrate is
Learn about the different types of invertebrates
Know why invertebrates are important
Understand why we are surveying them
Help contribute to citizen science

*Items depicted in bold are available from CALLP

Activity description
<p>Refer to Bugs Count Survey Booklet for guidance on how to use. Also see “before we start” sheet overleaf to put session into context and have a discussion about invertebrates.</p> <p>Intro copied from booklet: “By taking part in the survey and sending your results to us, you will help discover more about the incredible variety of invertebrates in the built environment. How many are there and where are they found? The survey results will also tell us which bug habitats occur in urban, suburban and rural areas, so we can see how they compare. It’s a lot of fun, so get counting!”</p> <p>Results can be uploaded to the OPAL website to be formally counted and recorded after the session: https://www.opalexplornature.org/bugscount</p>

Notes
Bugs Count resources: www.opalexplornature.org/bugscount



Before we start

Creepy crawlies: More formally known as invertebrates. Does anyone know what that means?

Invertebrates Account for 97 Percent of All Animal Species

Species for species, if not pound for pound, invertebrates are the most numerous and widely varied animals on earth. Just to put things in perspective, there are about 5,000 mammal species and 10,000 bird species; among invertebrates, insects alone account for at least a million species (and possibly an order of magnitude more).

There Are Six Basic Invertebrate Groups

The millions of invertebrate animals on our planet are assigned to six main groups:

- arthropods (insects, spiders and crustaceans);
- cnidarians (jellyfish, corals and sea anemones);
- echinoderms (starfish, sea cucumbers and sea urchins);
- molluscs (snails, slugs, squids and octopuses);
- segmented worms (earthworms and leeches);
- and sponges

Which ones will we be focusing on? Whereabouts do you expect to find these invertebrates?

How can we be kind to the invertebrates? Speaking quietly, moving gently and being sensitive to the creatures' needs is a must.

- whether certain creatures simply should be left alone such as bees, wasps and ants and others which nip, bite and sting.
- Using bug pots, soft brushes, teaspoons and cups are all ways of carefully moving, collecting and holding one or two minibeasts. – Remember they might eat each other!!
- Only handle or move a creature if you absolutely have to.
- Always return creatures to where you found them.

Questions to consider while exploring:

- The habitat: what does this tell you about the creature's needs? Is it damp or dry? Up in a tree, on the ground, under a log or below the surface?
- The numbers of the creature: it is alone or part of a group? Consider the pros and cons of each.
- How does the creature move? Does it wriggle, crawl, fly? Why do you think it moves in the way it does?
- What does it look like? Look at the body parts. Is it an insect, arachnid or from another family?

Game

Spider Web

This game starts out like any other game of tag. The player who is "it" is called the spider. The rest of the players are called flies. When the spider tags a player, that fly becomes caught in the spider's web. The spider and fly hold hands and chase after more flies. Each time a fly is caught, the hand-holding forms a larger web. This game continues until only one player is left who hasn't been caught in the web. That player wins the game.