

Summary of Day

Explore the world of the woods or ponds (or both). Observe, identify and record the minibeasts that you find. (Pond dipping only with Year 1 and Year 2.)

Learning objectives

- To identify a range of minibeasts and to investigate where minibeasts live and why they live there.
- To use a range of equipment appropriately to collect minibeasts.
- To learn the importance of giving care and respect to living things.
- To understand the idea of a simple food chain.

Key Vocabulary

habitat
pond
woodland
meadow
minibeast
magnifying glass
sweep net

camouflage
food chain
producer
herbivore
carnivore
decomposer

Prior Learning

No prior learning is essential for children to take part in this day.

To maximise children's learning during their visit, it would be beneficial for them to understand the term 'food chain' and be able to identify some common minibeasts.

Example outline of the day

Approx 10 am Arrive / Introduction to Gatton Park / Safety talk

10.15 – 12.00 **Woodland and Meadow Habitats**

'Food Chain' trail.

Follow the food chain trail.

Can you recreate the food chain?

Woodland and Meadow hunt

Investigate different areas of the woodland and the meadow using appropriate equipment.

Record minibeasts found.

12.00- 12.30 Lunch

12.30 – 1.00 Ponds Habitat

Classroom session looking at things we find in the pond.

1.00 – 2.00 Pond dipping – outside at our pond dipping pond

2.00 – 2.15 Return to the classroom.

2.15 – 2.30 Plenary session and preparation for departure.

Assessment Opportunities

Gatton Staff will assess progress throughout the day by open ended questioning and a plenary session.

- Have the children identified a range of minibeasts and discovered where they live?
- Have the children given the creatures they have found care and respect throughout their minibeast hunt?
- Have the children used the equipment provided in an appropriate manner?
- Can the children create a simple food chain?

Information for the group leader

- Outdoor clothing and sturdy footwear / wellies are advised
- Please note that due to the nature of the study site, adjustments may need to be made to this programme for those visitors who use a wheelchair or have limited mobility. Please contact the Centre to discuss alternatives.
- Please note this day will go ahead in most weather conditions. However alternative bad weather activities are available at the Centre if necessary.
- Centre Risk Assessment forms are available for those who come on a pre-visit; these may be used to write your own risk assessments in accordance with your school's requirements.

Post Visit learning opportunities

- Investigate a pond or woodland habitat in the school grounds and compare and contrast with your findings at Gatton.
- Play habitat/ food chain related games
- During ICT session, use the internet to investigate ways of improving the habitats around your school grounds.

- Design and make things that will improve the habitats in your school grounds eg bird cakes, ladybird homes, hedgehog boxes (see RSPB/ Wildlife Trust websites for ideas).
- For more ideas visit the follow up activities section of the Gatton Trust Website.

Differentiation	Access	Adult Participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults will encourage participation and give support as appropriate • Specific adjustments can be made to suit individual needs in conjunction with the class teacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large worksheets can be provided with prior notice. • Different learning styles are considered throughout the day. • Please inform us in advance if any of your students have limited mobility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults will encourage participation and give support as appropriate during practical tasks. • Adults will accompany each group looking for minibeasts in the woods and meadow. • Please ask adults to keep their mobile phones switched to silent during the teaching part of the day and only make and receive calls at lunch time.

Resources

All resources for the day are provided by Gatton Park Education Centre, including:

- Clipboards
- Bug pots and paint brushes
- Sweep nets
- Tree shaking sheets
- Identification keys
- Magnifying glasses
- Pond nets