

Summary of Day

Explore the pond and woodland habitats, look at the adaptations of animals that live in each habitat. Enjoy some pond dipping and minibeast hunting.

Learning Objectives

- To understand what a habitat is and identify different habitats.
- 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 use keys to identify different animals, make reliable observations and record what they find.

Key Vocabulary

habitat	thorax
pond	abdomen
woodland	head
minibeast	antennae
magnifying glass	producer
pooter	consumer
sweep net	carnivore
camouflage	herbivore
branching key	omnivore
data logger	
temperature	
humidity	

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 habitat.

Example Outline of the Day

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

10.15 - 11.30 Pond Habitat

Classroom session

- Demonstrate how animals adapt to live in water
- Use microscopes and keys to identify pond creatures we have collected before you arrive
- Complete worksheet recording one minibeast in detail (optional).

11.30 - 12.00 Outdoor pond dipping session. Sort pond creatures by different adaptations.

12.00 - 12.30 Lunch

12.30 - 1.30 Woodland Habitat

Walk to Serpentine Woods. Complete 'create a fantasy minibeast' activity on the way

1.30 - 2.15 Minibeast hunting in different areas of the habitat using appropriate equipment.
Measure and record temperature, light level and humidity in different areas of the woodland.
Identify and record the animals found
Return to classroom

2.15 - 2.30 Plenary and Preparation for Departure

Assessment Opportunities

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

- Are the children able to explain some similarities and difference between minibeasts e.g. number of legs, colour etc?
- Can children use keys to identify animals and make reliable observations of organisms?
- 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?

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 Park
- Create a range of food chains back at school
- Design and make your own branching keys
- Play habitat 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, e.g. 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

- Adults will encourage participation and give support as appropriate.
- Specific adjustments can be made to suit individual needs in conjunction with the class teacher.

Access

- 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.

Adult Participation

- Adults will encourage participation and give support as appropriate during practical tasks.
- Adults will accompany each small group looking for minibeasts in the woods.
- 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, including:

- Clipboards
- Pooters
- Sweep nets
- Identification Keys
- Microscopes
- Pond nets