

Minibeasts Ponds (half day)

Key Stage 1

Summary of Day

Discover the invertebrates that live in the ponds at Gatton Park. The session starts in the classroom where pre-collected pond creatures are observed and identified before pupils move to our pond dipping area and learn how to pond dip safely.

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 and observe 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 minibeast magnifying glass adaptation	camouflage food chain
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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

<p>Arrive / Introduction to Gatton Park / Safety talk</p> <p>Classroom session where pupils think about and discuss how pond creatures are able to survive in a pond.</p> <p>Observation of pre-collected creatures</p> <p>Walk to pond</p> <p>Safety demonstration</p> <p>Pond dipping</p>	
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Assessment Opportunities

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

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Information for the group leader

- Outdoor clothing and sturdy footwear / wellies are advised.
- 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large worksheets can be provided with prior notice. • Different learning styles 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 give support as appropriate during practical tasks. • Adults will accompany each group during the activities. • 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.

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Resources		
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All resources for the day are provided by Gatton Park Education Centre.		
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