

Habitat Build



Objective

Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for their basic needs



Equipment

- Enrich School Orienteering Maps
- Plastic container
- Minibeast Example Activity Sheet



Preparation

- Identify suitable locations around the school site for groups of children to create a mini-beast habitat.
- Divide the class into four teams and explain that they are going to create their own habitat to encourage different creatures to come and live there. Their microhabitat will be for mini-beasts, so it will need to be made of stones, twigs, leaves and will need to be sheltered from the weather.
- Give each group an Enrich School Orienteering Map. Allocate a different location for each group to create their habitat. Referring to the symbols on the map, discuss why the locations you have selected would be good places to create mini-beast habitats (e.g. secluded, sheltered, proximity to trees or other vegetation etc)



Instructions

- Each group must start by using their Enrich School Orienteering Map to find their allocated location.
- When they have found their correct location, they can collect materials to use in creating their mini-beast habitat.
- When they have had enough time to collect materials, they should be instructed to return to their allocated location and begin to use their materials to build a mini-beast habitat.
- When they have had sufficient time to build their habitat, bring the children back together and discuss the materials that they have collected and how they have used them to create a minibeast microhabitat. Tell them that their habitats will be left until a follow-up session, when they will look to see whether any minibeasts have made a home in their microhabitats.
- Leave ample time (at least 2 weeks?) before the follow-up session. Prior to inspecting and observing the groups' microhabitats, discuss with the groups what type of minibeasts they are expecting to find in them. Provide each group with a Minibeast Example Activity Sheet and clip board, and a plastic container, (preferably transparent and big enough to hold materials used to build the microhabitats).
- Instruct groups to start slowly and gently, placing items from their microhabitat into their containers, observing and inspecting each piece. Whilst they do this, they need to look carefully for any minibeasts and if they find any, to try to find them on their Mini-beast Example Activity Sheets.



Other information

- This activity will be most successful in Spring / Summer when there is a greater likelihood of mini beasts being attracted to the habitats that children create.
- Discuss with children the importance of treating mini-beasts with care and carefully releasing any that they collect back into the environment.

