

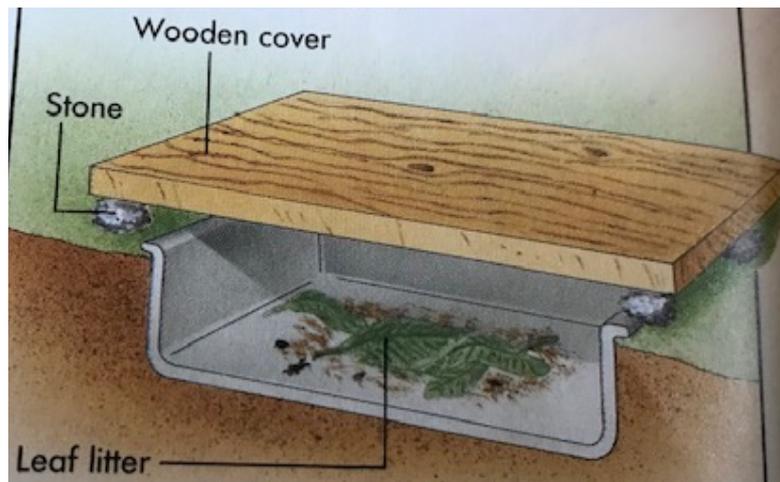


Age 5 years +

Who lives in my garden?

Invertebrates (minibeasts) are all around us but can be hard to find as they are small and often hidden. Make a pitfall trap to discover what is living in your garden, without hurting them.

You will need: Tub, e.g. margarine tub or yogurt pot, 4 stones 1-2cm high a piece of wood (or cardboard if used on a dry night), trowel



1st day

Dig a small hole in the ground just deeper than your tub (this could be in an unused flower bed (check that you are allowed to dig a hole in your garden, you may need to ask an adult to help you and remember to wash your hands after). Put the tub in the ground, making sure the top is flush with the ground. Find some stones (about 2cm high) and put one stone in each corner.

Place the wood on top to stop the rain getting in. Put some leaves and compost in the tub for the animals to shelter in. You could also put some vegetable scraps in there to attract them.

2nd day

In the morning remove the tub from the ground and see what invertebrates visited your pitfall trap. Don't leave the animals in the tub for too long and let them go once you have had a look.

Be a minibeast detective and identify what you have found using a link to the sheet below;

Wildlifetrusts.org

Opalexplornature.org

Wildlifewatch.org.uk

Remember

If you need to handle the animals, be gentle and only do it when necessary. Always put the animals back into their habitat as that is where they will be able to get everything that they need to survive. Don't touch any animals that are bright colours as they may bite, sting or be poisonous, e.g. red ants, wasps or bees.

Wash your hands at the end of the activity.