

Extra ideas for class activities



Classification and keys



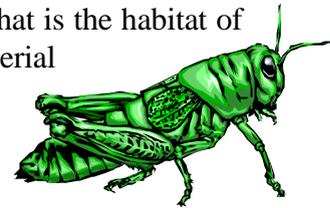
Mini-beasts are usually called bugs or flies. Tell the class that insects actually have different groups (in fact there are 23 different groups) and that two of these groups are called ‘bugs’ and ‘flies’. Some other groups are ‘beetles’, ‘fleas’, ‘butterflies and moths’, ‘bees wasps and ants’ and ‘grasshoppers and crickets’.

You could ask the class to find pictures of insects and put them into their groups. If the insects aren’t in any of these main groups above you could also have a group called ‘others’, this may include insects like dragonflies, stick insects and earwigs. Ask the class to write a key that other classes could use.

Habitats

Ask the class “What insect can we find in Britain that is like a locust?”. What is the habitat of this insect. If you were going to collect the insect, what type of habitat material would you give to it?

This links to Discovery Card 2 of the BBSRC Minibeast Discovery Pack “There’s no place like home!”.



Life-cycles

Ask the class to choose another insect. Find out if it has complete or incomplete metamorphosis.



Ladybirds are a good example of complete metamorphosis. They have an egg stage, a larval stage (try to find their larvae, they look very different from the adults and look like black and yellow caterpillars), a pupal stage and an adult stage.

They are also a good example of different types of species because small ladybirds with two spots are a different species from the larger seven spotted ladybirds (they are not just baby ladybirds).

Eating – What should we eat?



A taste receptor

Locusts have special taste receptors that cover the surface of their bodies. There are over 1,000 receptors on each leg and many thousands on the mouthparts. They can tell what tastes good and what tastes bad. They can also tell what sort of nutrients are in the food, and they choose what to eat on the basis of its nutritional status.

Ask the class to find out what foods they should eat. Then see if they can plan a meal that would be good for them and draw a picture of it.

