

Teacher's notes Magnificent Minibeasts



CUILCAGH
LAKELANDS
GEOPARK



This programme lets pupils investigate invertebrates local to Northern Ireland and Ireland. Pupils will use puters and nets to catch different invertebrates, and be provided with classification charts and identification charts to use. Pupils will be provided with a booklet to complete for additional learning at home or in school. Pupils will also use rocks and paint to make their own minibeast to take home with them.

Level: NI: Key stage 2
ROI: 3, 4, and 5th class

Time required: 90 minutes

Curriculum links: This experiment links with the National Curriculums of Northern Ireland (The World Around Us) and Ireland (Geography, History and Science)

Northern Ireland	Ireland
<p>NI – Interdependence - How living things rely on each other within the natural world: Local habitats, for example, woodland, lake, river, seashore, protected area or pond (KS2); The relationship between animals and plants in a habitat (KS2); Plants and plant growth (KS2)</p> <p>NI – Place How place influences the nature of life (KS2); Ways in which people, plants and animals depend on the features and materials in places and how they adapt to their environment: Places then and now and how our identity, way of life and culture has been shaped by influences from the local and wider world.</p> <p>Features of, and variations in places, including physical, human, climatic, vegetation and animal life (KS2): Places then and now</p>	<p>Ireland -Geography - Natural Environments: The local natural environment; Land, rivers, and seas of my county. Rocks and Soils; Weather, climate and atmosphere</p> <p>Science – Environmental Awareness and Care: Environmental awareness</p> <p>Science – Living Things: Human life; Plant and animal life</p>



Learning Objectives:

Students will understand:

- Different types of invertebrates we find in Northern Ireland and Ireland using classification charts and Identification charts
- Types of social invertebrates
- What insects are (three body parts – head, thorax and abdomen, six legs)
- The habitats of different minibeasts found in Northern Ireland and Ireland

Students will have developed their skills in:

- Investigating and experimenting
- Observing
- Recording and communicating

They will use these resources:

- Geopark minibeast hunt equipment including putters and sweep nets
- Identification and classification charts
- Trays and magnifying glasses

Structure of the Day:

Time	Subject
15 mins	Introduction to Geopark, discussion on what is a minibeast, what is an insect, what the habitat is what they expect to find on their hunt
30 mins	In pairs, pupils will be given a putter and sweep net and shown how to use. Pupils will be led on a walk to hunt for and collect minibeasts. Pupils will be guided to look in various locations for different species, such as under logs, in bushes, on grass.
30 mins	Pupils will be given trays and magnifying glasses along with classification and ID charts. Staff will instruct on how to use and assist pupils in the identification and classification of what they have caught Group discussion on different species found and different habitats they live in
10 mins	Pupils will be given a rock and paint to design their own minibeast to take home with them
5 mins	Pupils will be asked to reflect on what they have learnt and given booklets to take home/back to school for additional learning