

Living Things and their Habitats

Lesson 2: Local Living Things – What are they?

LI: To ask questions about local habitats and to carefully observe and record the living things in the local area.

A **habitat** is a home environment for plants and animals or other organisms. A habitat is made up of 4 things an animal needs: food, water, shelter and space. Examples of habitats include: desert, meadow, woodland, grassland, forest, seashore and ocean. These links tell you a bit more. You don't have to watch all of them!

<https://youtu.be/ZrSWYE37MJs>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zx882hv/resources/1>

<https://www.pbs.org/video/habitat-habitat-basics-buxg6x/>

<https://www.bwis.org.uk/habitats-and-microhabitats/>

A **micro-habitat** is a very specific, small home environment for plants, animals and insects. Examples include: ponds, individual trees, under a stone or a pile of logs. Here is an example of a micro-habitat:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mXEsvrJUUnU>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zf6mhyc>

Can you name any habitats near your house? They can be really small (micro habitats). e.g. garden bed, under the tree, on the playground, a pond or wild flower area, under a log, in the compost heap. *Has this habitat always looked like this? How does the habitat change during the different seasons?*

For this session we would like you to **go outside to collect information about the living things**, particularly invertebrates (creatures without a backbone such as insects, worms, etc.) and plants present within the habitat you have chosen to visit. You can record your findings on a record sheet.

Your parents might have an app on their phone which can help identify plants. These links have spotter sheets to help name some of the things you might find:

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/activities/2015/09/leaf-id/> - **Leaf identification PDF;**

http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_creepy_crawly_spotter_sheet.pdf

http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_minibeast_hunt.pdf

Qualities of a Good Observer or Collector



Search carefully, disturbing the surroundings as little as possible.

Handle only a few, but look at many living things.

Replace overturned logs and stones.

Do not pick wild flowers; draw them or photograph instead.



If you can't get outside, this clip explores invertebrates you might find in a garden. It is very long (40 mins) so please don't feel you have to watch all of it – just the first 10 minutes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVppf3nz1Og>

<https://youtu.be/2fmtIToiGjI> is also quite useful.

Lesson 2 - Observation Sheet

[illegible]

Woodland Trust Nature Detectives

Be a super spotters!
How many trees can you identify?



Alder



Beech



Oak



Sycamore



Birch



Holly



Ash



Horse Chestnut



Elder



Field Maple



Hawthorn



Hazel



Rowan



Woodland Trust Nature Detectives

Get out and get detecting!
How many of these are insects?

Earwig



Woodlouse



Grasshopper



Shieldbug



Caterpillar



Check out these critters!



Harvestman



Snail



Stag beetle



Centipede



Ant