

What Do Curlews Eat?

Let's Go Minibeast Hunting!



This activity requires an outside space with vegetation such as long grass, bushes or an area that can be dug.

Equipment

- Bug nets
- Insect ID guides
- Bug pots
- Shaker sheets
- Digging tools

What do you think Curlews eat?

They use their long bill to probe the ground for invertebrates such as worms, leatherjackets, and other insects too. We know they even like to eat the whinberries (bilberries) that grow on the hills in Shropshire.

Young Curlews that haven't grown their long bill yet will try to catch smaller insects that live in long grass.

Today we are going to try and catch some insects too! Remember when outside to stay in sight, and you will need to wash hands with soap and water when you are finished.



What Do Curlews Eat?

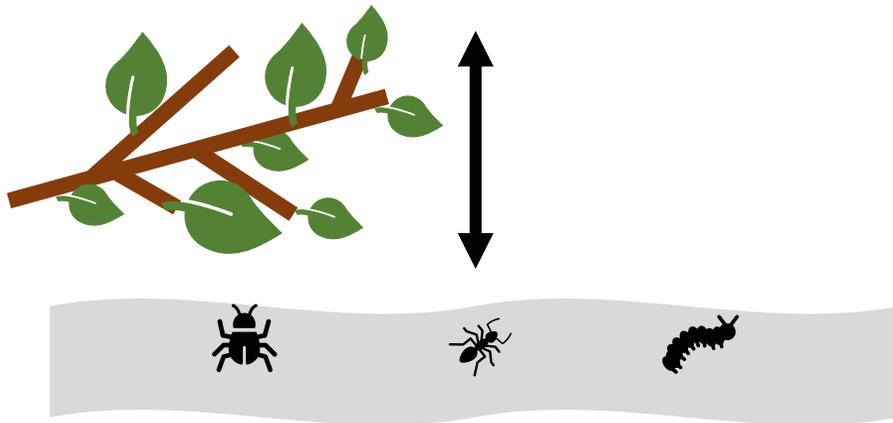
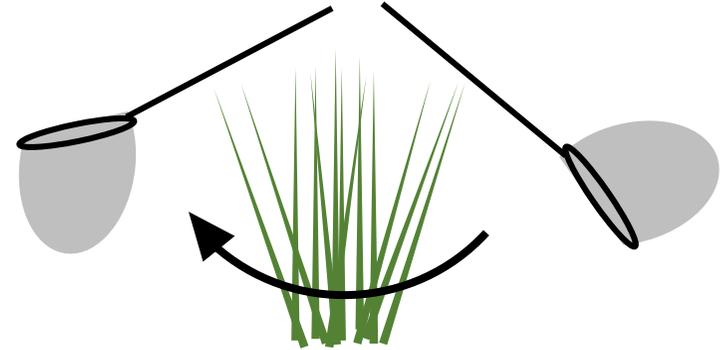
Let's Go Minibeast Hunting!



Demonstration and instructions:

Sweep nets

It is best to use sweep nets in areas of long grass, make sure you have plenty of space around you then quickly move the net through the grass and take a look inside to see if you've caught anything. Put any mini beasts into your bug pots and try sweeping in a different area!



Shaker sheets

Take one of the white sheets and spread it out under a tree or shrub. Give the branch above it a shake and take a look on the sheet to see if any critters have fallen off. Again, you can put these in your bug pots to take a closer look.

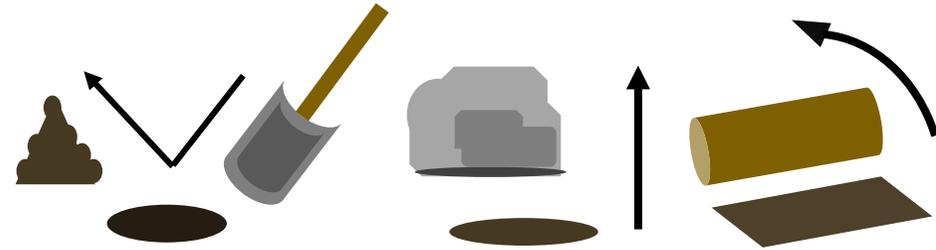
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Digging

Another way to look for minibeasts is by digging. You can use some of the diggers to have a look in the soil for more creatures - maybe you'll find some earth worms! You can also look underneath things such as logs or stones to see if anybody is hiding there and put them back down gently afterwards.



Please gently replace anything moved

Potentially useful to look for:

- How many legs has your minibeast got?
- How many body segments has it got?
- How does it move?
- Can it fly?
- What colour is it?
- Does it have any patterns or markings (like spots or stripes)

Please Remember

Remember to be gentle with any minibeasts you find, and once we've had a closer look we will put them all back where we found them. You can compare the bugs you find with the spotter sheet below to see if you can figure out what they are and record how many you see.

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Minibeast Guide

Worm



Bumblebee



Wasp



Hoverfly



Moth



Ladybird



Spider



Beetle



Snail



Butterfly



Woodlouse



Millipede



Slug



Caterpillar



Ant



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Minibeast Guide

Grasshopper



Shield Bug



Froghopper



These are just some of the minibeasts that you may find on your bug hunt.

Centipede



Dragonfly



Cranefly



Remember that these may come in other shapes and colours and can be further identified using field guides or online resources such as: Buglife.

Have a wonderful bug hunt and remember you may be bug hunting with hands but curlew have to bug hunt with their long curved bill.

Things to Remember

Wash your hands.

Be gentle with the minibeasts you find.

Have Fun!

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Curlew Country

What I Found!

- Worm
- Bumblebee
- Wasp
- Hoverfly
- Moth
- Ladybird
- Spider
- Beetle
- Snail
- Centipede
- Dragonfly

Tally

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- Butterfly
- Woodlouse
- Millipede
- Slug
- Caterpillar
- Ant
- Grasshopper
- Shield bug
- Froghopper
- Cranefly

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Notes: