



# Invertebrate Investigations


Pupils ask questions about their local invertebrates and plan their own investigations to find the answers.


Science  
Activity


Upper  
Primary/  
Secondary

 I can sample and identify living things from different habitats to compare their biodiversity and suggest reasons for their distribution (SCN 3-01a)

 Working scientifically: planning different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary (Upper KS2)

 Study through fieldwork, the plants and animals found in two contrasting local environments (KS2)

 The relationship between animals and plants in a habitat (KS2)

 Strand unit > Plant and animal life > Variety and characteristics of living things (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> classes)

## Activity

Take pupils to suitable areas in the school grounds and simply encourage them to begin asking questions about invertebrates e.g.

**Do more invertebrates live in the shady areas or the sunny areas?**

**Do any invertebrates live on the playground?**

**Where is the best place in the school grounds for invertebrates and why?**

The older the pupils the more you can challenge them in the detail of their questioning e.g.

**Do more invertebrates live under coniferous trees or under deciduous trees?**

**Can we estimate how many invertebrates live in the school grounds?**

**What types of flowers do pollinators prefer?**

The next step is to support the pupils in selecting a question and planning their investigation i.e. the **hypothesis**, the **method** and the **equipment**.

Many of the investigations will require a comparison of two different areas and the pupils can be encouraged to compare the **abiotic factors** in each:

- Temperature
- Light level
- Wind speed
- pH of the soil
- Moisture levels
- Plants present



## Suggested Equipment to support investigations

- **To measure abiotic factors:** thermometer suitable for measuring air and soil temperature, pH meter or indicator paper, light meter, anemometer, moisture meter
- Quadrat
- Meter stick
- ID guides
- Tape measure
- Pitfall traps
- Pooters
- White trays, spoons and paintbrushes

For more resources call 01962 846 258 or visit [www.ltl.org.uk/resources](http://www.ltl.org.uk/resources)  
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