



# INVESTIGATING HABITATS and FOOD CHAINS

KS2 SCIENCE (QCA 4B & 6A)

<p><b>Learning Objectives During this Day Course pupils should learn:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ü To make predictions about the animals and plants that might be found in a habitat.</li> <li>ü To use a variety of techniques to collect, identify and record plants and animals in a habitat.</li> <li>ü That different animals and plants are found in different habitats and are adapted to conditions there.</li> <li>ü That animals and plants are interdependent.</li> <li>ü That food chains can be used to represent feeding relationships within a habitat.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pupils will also:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ü Learn safely in a new environment.</li> <li>ü Gain an appreciation of the environment and understand their role in caring for it.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day Course Programme</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Where 2 classes are attending the course the introductory session will be common to both. Classes will then separate and sessions A and B will be interchangeable am and pm.</p> <p><b>Introduction:</b> On arrival a member of CEES staff will welcome your group to the Centre and describe the day's programme and the learning objectives.</p> <p><b>Option A includes a visit to an ancient woodland, requiring bus travel.</b></p> <p><b>Session 1:</b> The group will travel by bus to an ancient woodland nature reserve. Through exploration, discussion and investigation pupils will gain an understanding of the variety of life in the wood and of seasonal changes. They will discover the importance of the leaf litter habitat and will use keys to identify minibeasts found there. Other activities will include exploring food chains and using the senses.</p> <p><b>Session 2:</b> At the Centre pupils will investigate a variety of habitats including a pond, grassland and hedgerows, and will discover how animals found there are adapted to their habitats..</p> <p><b>Option B includes a visit to a wetland nature reserve, not requiring bus.</b></p> <p><b>Session 1:</b> The group will walk through fields to Stibbington Lakes Nature Reserve. A practical session will involve pond dipping to sample minibeasts from a wetland habitat. Observation and discussion will emphasise the role of plants and the adaptations of pond minibeasts.</p> <p><b>Session 2:</b> At the centre pupils will investigate minibeasts found in grassland, hedgerow and leaf litter habitats and will experience sensory activities. A practical activity will be used to demonstrate food chains and webs.</p> <p><b>Plenary:</b> The group will reflect on their day and consider how well the learning objectives have been met.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The actual programme may vary depending on number and needs of pupils, length of visit and weather conditions.</p>
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<p><b>Adult : Pupil ratios</b> For this course CEES' recommended ratio for safety is <b>1 : 8</b> For most classes, 4 pre-arranged working groups, each with an adult, is ideal. Additional adults may be needed with classes where individual pupils need 1 : 1 support.</p>
<p><b>Other information</b></p> <p><b>If choosing option A</b> – please arrange for your bus to be available during the day to transport the group between Centre and woodland (3 miles). <b>You will need to make this clear when booking your bus.</b></p> <p>Please see separate guidance notes on safe and effective day courses, including information on clothing and equipment.</p>

<b>Relevant extracts from CEES risk assessments</b>	
<b>See also separate guidance notes on safe and effective day courses</b>	
<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Control measures</b>
Extreme weather conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEES staff are aware of daily weather forecast.</li> <li>• Alternative venues or activities are substituted if weather conditions are particularly unfavourable.</li> <li>• In extreme cases, where guidance notes on clothing have not been complied with, pupils may be excluded from activities.</li> </ul>
Uneven ground, low branches, steep slopes, steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils and adults are made aware of expected standards of behaviour and, for example pupils are instructed to walk, not run, to look ahead, and to stay close to their supervisory adult.</li> </ul>
Walking and working beside water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils are given clear verbal instructions on safety beside water and the safe use of equipment.</li> <li>• Pond dipping is carried out from specially built platforms.</li> <li>• CEES staff carry a lifeline in addition to standard safety equipment.</li> <li>• Practical work is carried out only where there is no water pollution.</li> <li>• Pupils with cuts, abrasions or skin allergies are given protective gloves.</li> <li>• Pupils are instructed to wash hands thoroughly after the activity and before eating.</li> </ul>
Sharp, stinging and poisonous plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils are warned about known dangers.</li> </ul>