



# INVESTIGATING MINIBEASTS

KS 2 SCIENCE QCA units 4B and 6A

<p><b>Learning Objectives</b> During this Day Course pupils should learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ü To observe and record minibeasts found in different habitats.</li> <li>ü To make predictions about the types of minibeasts found in different habitats.</li> <li>ü How minibeasts may be grouped by observable features and identified using charts and keys.</li> <li>ü That plants and animals in a habitat are interdependent and are adapted to their environment.</li> <li>ü To construct simple branching keys.</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 align="center"><b>Day Course Programme</b></p> <p>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>Session A:</b> This session takes place in Upware Centre's unique nature reserve. Through exploration, discussion and investigation pupils will gain an understanding of the variety of life in contrasting habitats and their adaptations. Practical sessions will include pond dipping for pond minibeasts, and minibeast hunting in the hedgerow and woodland. Minibeasts will be identified using information sheets and keys. The numbers and varieties of species found will be recorded, and their habitat preferences will be considered in terms of their adaptations</p>
<p><b>Session B:</b> This session is based at the centre and will consist of a number of activities, which may include: the construction of branching keys and clay modelling to illustrate the concept of adaptation. The pupils will also be creating food chains from two different habitats and thinking about the minibeasts which occur in them.</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>

<p><b>Relevant extracts from CEES risk assessments</b></p> <p>See also separate guidance notes on safe and effective day courses</p>	
<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 on trees, 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> <li>• Pupils are made aware of safe standards of behaviour</li> </ul>
Unfamiliar countryside surroundings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adults supervise directly, for example, walking beside the group and regularly checking that entire group is present.</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>
Working with clay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eyewash is readily available.</li> <li>• The working surfaces are wet-wiped and clean tools are used.</li> <li>• Pupils with cuts or skin allergies are provided with protective gloves.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Adult : Pupil ratios</b> For this course CEES' recommended ratio for safety is <b>1 : 8</b></p> <p>Additional adults may be needed with classes where individual pupils need 1 : 1 support</p>
<p><b>Other information</b> Please see separate guidance notes on safe and effective day courses, including information on clothing and equipment.</p>