



We're going on a Bug Hunt!

Learning Objectives:

- Communicate; take part in conversation, share experiences, ideas and information.
- Learn about different types of invertebrates.
- Improve understanding of what habitats different invertebrates need.

Key Topics:

Science, Maths, the world around us

Location:

Outdoors

Resources (optional):

- Pencils, clipboards and paper.
- Potatoes
- Plastic cups
- Bug nets, bug pots, magnifying glasses

Key Words:

Habitat, Shelter, Food, Predators

Background

In our experience all kids love a bug hunt! Bugs hunts can be a simple and effective way to connect pupils with nature, and they can be carried out on most school grounds.

If you are not an esteemed entomologist, running a bug hunt can be a daunting activity. However, by following a few simple guidelines you can make your bug hunt simple to deliver, enjoyable and relevant to a host of different subjects.

Preparation

Decide how long you want to spend outside and where you are holding your bug hunt.

The exercise below can be delivered in one hour. Think about any risks that may be present and complete a risk assessment for the activity (your school will have its own guidance).

Spend some classroom discussion time getting the children to think about where the best places to look for bugs are, and what they might find there.

No equipment is needed to run a bug hunt, but if you fortunate to have bug nets, bug pots and magnifying glasses now is the time to use them!

To improve your chances of finding a range of invertebrates, you might want to set some traps the night before:

- **Potato trap** – cut a potato in half and place cut side down on the ground. The potato can be turned over to check during your bug hunt.
- **Pitfall trap** – bury a plastic cup in the ground so that the lip of the cup is at ground level. Leave over night and check the next day to see what bugs have fallen in.



Where to look

Consider using the attached survey sheet.

Look around your school grounds for places where bugs shelter or feed, try looking:

- Under **stones, logs** and **leaves**.
- In long **grass**, on **flowers, bushes** and **trees**
- In your school **pond**.

Working in groups, get the children to hunt each habitat type for ten minutes, listing with tally marks how many of each bug they find in each. Discuss what each group have found in the different habitats, and why particular types of bugs might like it there – is it for food, or shelter, or for another reason?

For example:

- Bees and butterflies feed on nectar so are often found on flowers.
- Centipedes like the dark so are more likely to be found under stones and logs.
- Some caterpillars that live on green leaves are coloured green so they can avoid being eaten by predators.



What have you found?

Don't worry about identifying every species you find, or learning the Latin name for every bug. A useful starting point is to familiarise yourself with a few commonly encountered bugs - e.g. ladybirds and their larvae, butterflies, caterpillars, grasshoppers, snails, spiders, honeybees, bumblebees, hoverflies and woodlice. Consider using some simple identification guides, for example those produced by the Field Studies Council (www.field-studies-council.org).

If you are not confident about bugs then you might want to try our **Bug Bingo!** This is also useful for a short activity. With your class, investigate your school grounds or local park, ticking off the bugs as you find them. A bug bingo sheet is included in this pack.

Follow up activities

You can follow up the activity in the classroom by drawing pictures of what you have found, or use the data collected to draw graphs of where different bugs are found.



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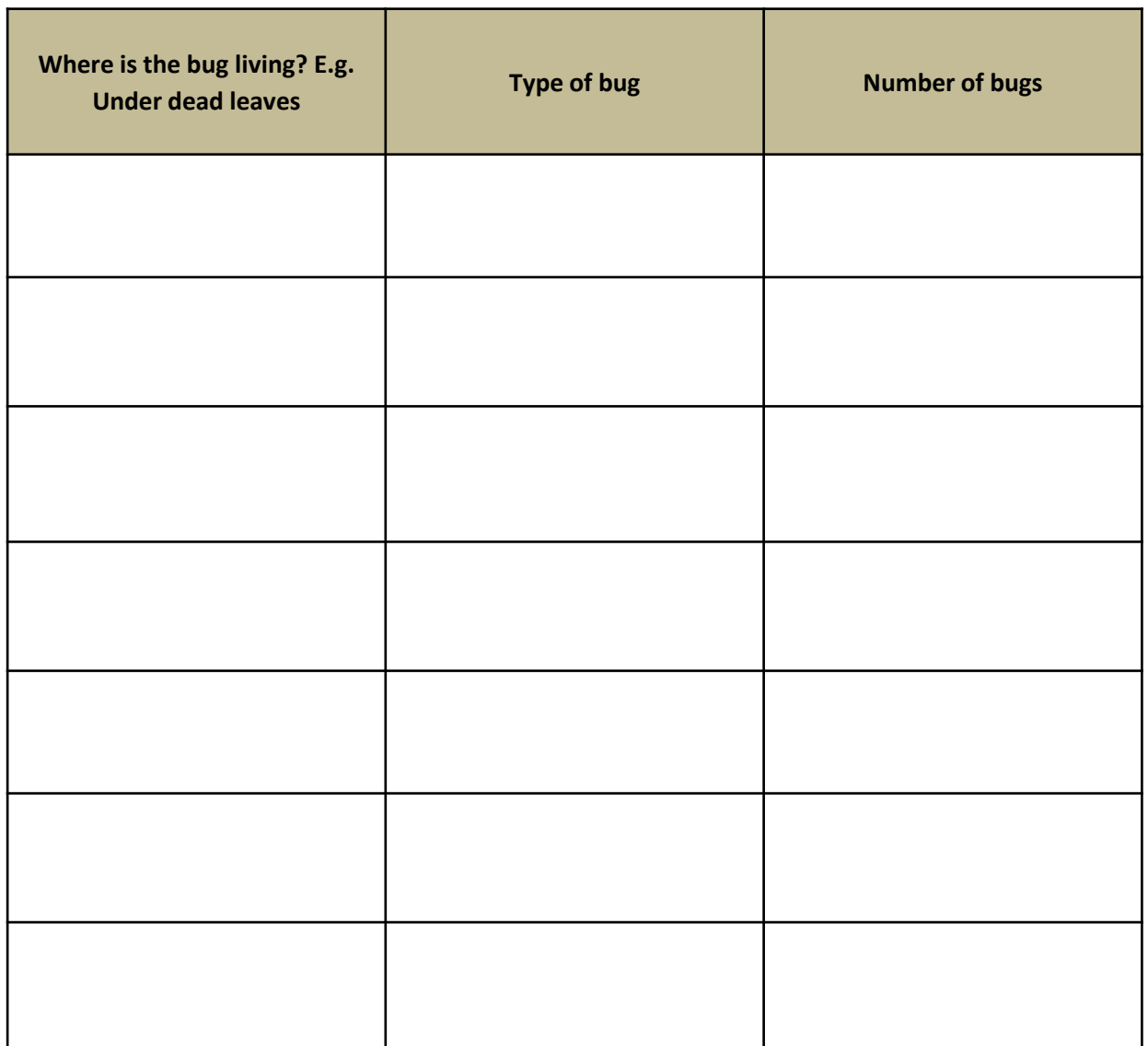
**NORTHUMBRIAN
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On your bug hunt look for different bugs and record data about them. Think about their **HABITAT**. Make sure you fill in all the boxes as you can use the data to make graphs and charts later.





The bugs you find might like to eat pollen and nectar or they might like to chomp on decaying twigs and leaves. Some bugs might like to eat other bugs.

