



Nature activities

Wildside's collection of fun activities for all ages and abilities





Wildside Activity Pack

With recent lockdowns and restrictions on what we can do, we at Wildside feel it is still vitally important for you and your loved ones to get outdoors and access the natural world. This pack has been designed for those wanting to connect to nature in their own time.

You can use these resources on your daily walks or pre-planned activities to find out more about the natural world around you, or as a guide to help you create your own unique adventures.

We would love to see how you have used the resources in our pack, so please let us know how you get on - photos would be brilliant! You can email us at info@wildsideac.co.uk with your updates.

FIND OUT MORE

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Mini-beasts

Mini-beasts are important for many reasons. They are pollinators (passing pollen from flower to flower enabling reproduction), they are food for numerous other animals (including birds, frogs and hedgehogs) and they are a great clean-up crew (some feed on dead, decaying material).

Without mini beasts our ecosystem couldn't survive, luckily there are a few simple things we can do to help them!

Plants



Plants provide an important food source for lots of mini-beasts. Most insects are generalist feeders and don't require specific plant species, they just like a lot of choice. Try to plant your garden so that there are lots of flowers, and shrubs and the odd tree if possible.

Dead wood



Mini-beasts require places to hide from predators and the sun, dead wood is a great help as it also provides food as it decays. Try to leave a pile of logs, old branches, etc. in a corner of your garden.

Bug hotels



These can be as simple or extravagant as you like. You could tie a bundle of twigs and bamboo cane together and hang from a fence or make a huge hotel like that in the picture, the mini-beasts in your garden will appreciate them all.

Myths and interesting facts

- Not all insects bite or sting - only a very small number do, and they would rather move away from you than use the large amount of energy it takes to bite or sting.
- Not all mini-beasts damage plants – many insects actually protect plants from pests. Ladybirds, lacewings and hoverflies all eat aphids and several beetles eat slugs.
- Earthworms are hermaphrodites – they have both male and female organs.
- Fruit flies were the first living creatures to be sent into space.



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