



Wildlife Surveys

Equipment required

- Print out of the 'Wildlife Survey Equipment' worksheet, one per group
- Print out of the 'Invertebrate Traps' worksheet, one per group (2 pages)
- Print out of the 'Invertebrate Investigation' worksheet, one per group
- Observational tools, e.g. aquatic dipping net, binoculars, sweep net, trail camera, magnifying loupe
- Pencils, clipboards
- Basic materials for traps (cardboard, string, flour, plastic cups, paper, trays, sand, soil, sugar etc)
- Magnifying glasses
- Nets
- Internet enabled devices and internet access (if using Seek/iNaturalist)

To complete the activity

1. Ask learners to suggest examples of equipment that could be used to find and record wildlife.
2. If available, show a variety of wildlife recording tools to the class to spark curiosity and interest.
3. Share the 'Wildlife Survey Equipment' worksheet, one per group. Ask learners to match each piece of equipment with the type of wildlife it helps to spot/find.
4. Discuss answers and explain how each tool works, using real equipment if available.
5. Challenge the learners to consider other ways of surveying wildlife (e.g. insect traps, footprint traps, listening devices). Share ideas with the whole class.
6. Provide each group with the 'Invertebrate Investigation' worksheet, which will support them to:
 - Choose **how** they will survey invertebrates.
 - Create a simple **investigation plan**: What do we need? Where will we look? What will we record?
7. Support learners to carry out their plans, creating their own traps to actively search for their chosen invertebrate.
8. Learners may wish to use an app such as Seek/iNaturalist to record their findings.
9. Provide an opportunity for groups to present and reflect on their investigation results.

ANSWERS:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Seal - BINOCULARS | 6. Butterfly - SWEEP NET |
| 2. Bat - BAT DETECTOR | 7. Shrimp - AQUATIC DIPPING NET |
| 3. Moth - MOTH TRAP | 8. Dolphin - DRONE |
| 4. Gannet - TELESCOPE | 9. Otter - TRAIL CAMERA |
| 5. Wheatear - CAMERA | 10. Limpet - MAGNIFYING LOUPE |

Wildlife Survey Equipment



To complete the activity

Match the animal to what you might use to find it.

Equipment required
(per group)



Seals



Sweep Net



Binoculars



Butterfly



Bat



Telescope



Camera



Shrimp



Moth



Magnifying Loupe



Aquatic Dipping Net



Dolphin



Gannet



Drone



Moth Trap



Otter



Wheatear



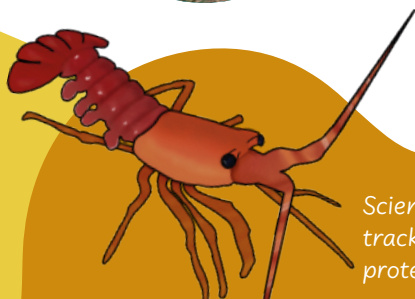
Bat Detector



Trail Camera



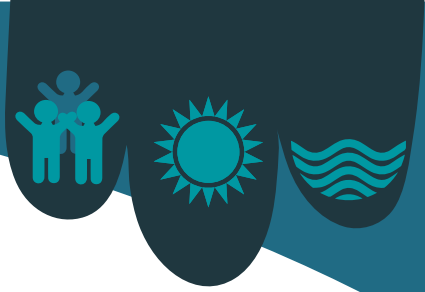
Limpet



Scientists use satellite and GPS tags to track animals, learn where they go, and help protect them.

Images by Steven Stansfield and Ed Betteridge

Invertebrate Traps



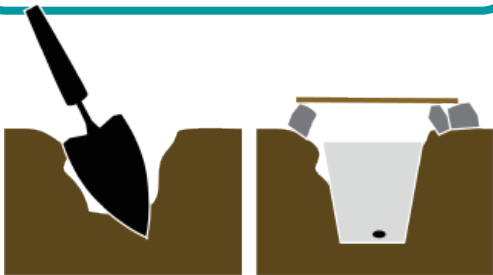
You don't always need a trap to spot invertebrates.

Simply sitting quietly and observing carefully can reveal a variety of fascinating creatures. However, if you'd like to investigate further, here are some simple traps that can help you ...

1. Pitfall Trap

You will need

A trowel
A plastic cup or jar
Stones
A piece of wood or an old leaf



Instructions

1. Dig a small hole in the ground and place the cup inside. Make sure the top of the cup is level with the soil.
2. Place a few small stones around the edges of the hole and lay the piece of wood or leaf over the top, resting it on the stones. Leave the trap for a few hours, then check to see what has been caught.
3. Once finished, release any creatures back into their habitat, clearing trap and filling the hole to leave the area as you found it.

2. Sugared Leaf Trap

You will need

A paintbrush
Sugar or honey
Warm water
A small bowl
A large leaf or piece of bark



Instructions

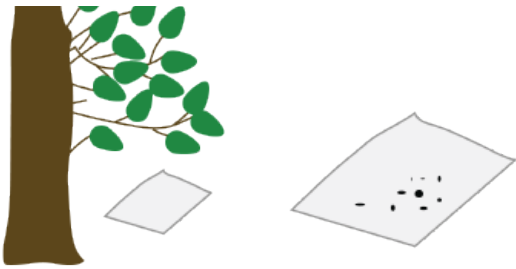
1. Mix a small amount of warm water with sugar or honey in a bowl to create a sticky solution.
2. Allow the mixture to cool slightly, then use a paint brush to spread it on to a large leaf or piece of bark.
3. Place the sugared leaf in an area where invertebrates are likely to visit, such as near bushes, trees, or flowers.
4. Leave the trap for a while and observe which invertebrates are attracted to the sweet surface.
5. Once finished, remove the leaf/bark to avoid disturbing the natural environment.

Invertebrate Traps

3. Beating Tray Trap

You will need

A white sheet
or large piece of white paper
A stick or small branch



Instructions

1. Find a tree or bush with plenty of leaves and branches.
2. Hold the white sheet or paper underneath a branch.
3. Gently tap or shake the branch using a stick to dislodge any invertebrates.
4. Watch as small invertebrates fall onto the sheet.
5. Carefully observe and identify the creatures before letting them go back into their habitat.

4. Light Trap

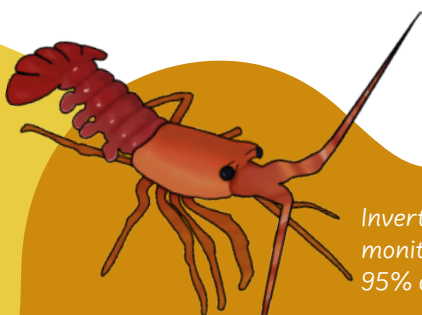
You will need

A bright torch or lamp
A white sheet
or large piece of white paper
String or pegs
(optional, for securing the sheet)



Instructions

1. Find a quiet outdoor space away from other bright lights.
2. Hang or spread out a white sheet against a wall, fence, or between trees. You can secure it with string or pegs if needed.
3. Return after dark and place a torch or lamp in front of the sheet so it shines brightly onto the surface.
4. Wait as nocturnal invertebrates are attracted to the light and land on the sheet.
5. Observe the different species that appear, then let them fly away undisturbed.



Invertebrate recordings help scientists monitor biodiversity as they make up over 95% of animal species.



Invertebrate Investigation

Plan your own Invertebrates Investigation below:

1. Which invertebrates would you like to spot?

2. Where will you look?

Tick one or more.

☐

Trees

☐

Bushes

☐

Grass

☐

Rocks

☐

Sand

☐

Water

☐

Other

3. When do you think is the best time to look?

Tick the best time.

☐

Morning

☐

Afternoon

☐

Evening

☐

Night

4. How will you spot this animal?

Draw or describe your method.

5. List the tools or materials you will need for your investigation.

6. Record Your Observations.

What did you see?

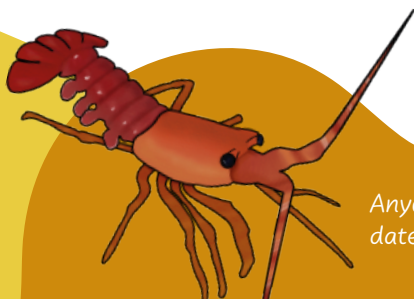
Describe or draw your findings.

7. Did you find the animal you were looking for?

If yes, describe what it was doing. If no, what do you think happened?

DISCUSS

What did you enjoy most about your investigation?
What would you do differently next time?



Anyone can record wildlife - just note the date, location, species and habitat.