



STEM By The Book

Mad About Minibeasts Giles Andreae & David Wojtowycz

Experiences and Outcomes

I have observed living things in the environment over time and am becoming aware of how they depend on each other. **SCN 0-01a**

I can explore examples of food chains and show an appreciation of how animals and plants depend on each other for food. **SCN 1-02a**

I can use my knowledge of the interactions and energy flow between plants and animals in ecosystems, food chains and webs. I have contributed to the design or conservation of a wildlife area. **SCN 2-02a**

I explore everyday materials in the creation of pictures/models/concepts. **TCH 0-10a**

Resources

- Cups or pots with a hole
- String
- Sticks
- Paper/cardboard
- Wool



Activity – Bug Hotel

Mad About Minibeasts and many other books featuring “creepy crawlies” are great for introducing learners to the idea of attracting wildlife to their setting and finding out more about invertebrates (animals without backbones).

To make your very own bug hotel, take your paper or plastic cup and with the help of an adult make a hole in the base. Do this by resting it on a piece of blu tack and piercing the cup with a sharp pencil into the blu tack below.

You will need to cut a piece of cardboard the same height as the cup or pot (Figure 1).

Lay a selection of sticks, paper and wool (check for wool allergies first) onto the cardboard (Figure 2).

Lay the stick and string in the middle of the bundle (Figure 3).



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Roll the cardboard around the bundle and tie it up with string.

Pack extra paper, card or twigs into the gaps so that it can be hung up securely (Figure 4).

Pull the string through the hole in the cup (Figure 5).

Your bug hotel is ready for guests to move in! (Fig 6)



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Hints and Tips

When picking which sticks to use, it is helpful if they have holes in them for insects to crawl into, bamboo cane is good for this. Adults should help to safely cut the canes to the right length.

Place your bug hotels where wildlife might already be living - such as amongst trees and bushes. Try to select a sheltered, shady position.

When you come to check if your hotel has received any visitors there are some clues to look out for: any movement you can see, slime trails, webs, signs of nibbling on paper or sticks, bug waste or spider exoskeletons.

If you have got visitors in your hotel try not to disturb them and remember always wash your hands after working outside.

Find out more

You can watch a video of the pupils at Linlithgow Primary School making their own bug hotels for the 2021 Great Science Share [here](#).

Download the teacher pack [here](#).

The Field Studies Council stock some lovely insect identification Guides such as Garden Bugs and Beasties.

<https://www.field-studies-council.org/shop/publications/garden-bugs-and-beasties/>

