Bug Hunting

You will need...
- A bug pot (or small plastic container)
- A spoon
- An insect Identification Guide

Optional...
- A magnifying glass
- Some white fabric (like a tea towel or pillowcase)

Step 1: Look around you and have a think about where the bugs and beasties might be hiding... in long grass, under stones and logs, in trees and bushes?

Step 2: In long grass – have a look at the top of the grass and carefully follow it all the way down to the ground looking for bugs and beasties as you go. Carefully put anything you find into your bug pot for a closer look.

Step 3: Under sticks and stones – carefully pick up a piece of wood or a stone and see if anything is hiding underneath. Remember to gently place sticks and stones back down where you found them.

Step 4: In trees and bushes – spread out your piece of white fabric under a branch and shake the branch gently. See what falls out onto your fabric and put them in your pot to get a closer look.

Step 5: Using the invertebrate identification guide try and work out what bugs and beasties you have found! Record what you have found on the recording sheet

Top Tip...
Use a plastic spoon to pick up the beasties for a closer look. If you use your fingers you might accidently squish their delicate legs and wings!

Let us know how you get on! Share your experiences and photos with us on twitter @TCVtweets and facebook @TheConservationVolunteers
Bug Hunting - Recording Sheet

How many of these bugs and beasties can you find?

Spider  Earthworm  Woodlouse
Snail  Earwig  Moth
Millipede  Beetle  Centipede

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Den Bulding

Make a den for a furry friend!

All you need for this activity is a bit of imagination.

As you walk around an area of woodland imagine you are a small woodland creature like a mouse or a fox.

Where would make a nice spot for a cosy den? On the ground? Next to a hedge? In a tree?

Once you have found a good spot think about what your den might need... A roof? A door? Some comfy bedding? Collect up anything you can find near by like sticks, stones, moss and leaves get creative.

You could even bring along your own cuddly woodland creature to try it out for size!

Make a den for yourself!

Find two forked trees that are close together and place a long stick between them.

Prop a row of sticks against it on each side so you end up with a tent shape.

You can cover the den with leaves and moss to fill in the gaps and help to camouflage it.

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Design and Build a Boat

You will need:
- Items from your recycling bin like yoghurt pots, plastic trays and cartons
- Sticky tape
- Paper
- A stick or a wooden skewer
- BluTack or plasticine
- Scissors

Step 1: Choose something from your recycling bin to make the body of your boat. Will it float? Will it be stable in the water or tip over? Experiment with some different things and see what works!

Step 2: Cut out a sail for your boat from a piece of card or paper and attach it to a stick with sticky tape

Step 3: Attach the bottom of the stick to your boat using plasticine/blutack

Step 4: Head to a local pond, lake or stream (or your bath!) and test it out on the open water! Tie a piece of string to the front of your boat so it doesn’t float away out of reach. Make sure you are always with an adult when playing near the water’s edge.

Top Tip...
When you are finished with your boat take off any sticky tape/sticks/string and pop it back in the recycling bin!

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Tree Cookies

You will need:
- A wood slice
- Colouring pens
- String/ribbon
- A drill (if your wood slice is not pre-drilled)
- Scissors

Step 1: If you haven’t got a wood slice ask someone with a saw to help you cut a slice of wood from a branch (but not from a living tree!). You can also buy wood slices online.

Step 2: Drill a small hole through your wooden slice near the edge.

Step 3: Draw your design on both sides of your tree cookie and colour in with felt tip pens. You can also add things like glitter and googley eyes!

Step 4: Tie a length of string or ribbon through the hole and knot securely. The length of your string depends what you are going to use it for. For example tie a short piece on to make a keyring or a long piece to make a necklace.

Top Tip...
These also make great Christmas tree decorations and presents!

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Scavenger Hunt

How many of these things can you spot on your walk? Tick the box when you find them.

- A stick in the shape of a Y
- A spiders’ web
- A pinecone
- Animal tracks
- A feather
- A birds’ nest
- Berries
- A footprint
- A Robin

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