

RHS GARDEN ROSEMOOR

Self Guided Activity Ideas for Schools

Key Stage 2

COMPARING ANIMAL HABITATS

How long will it take?

1 hour

What do I need to bring?

Collecting pots, Recording sheet, Clipboard and pencils, Identification charts

How do we do it?

Pick contrasting areas in the garden (see below). Give the children an area to search and get them to look closely for invertebrates looking under rocks, twigs and leaves. Collect all creatures in their collecting pots. Try to identify what they have found, count the numbers and record this. Move to the contrasting habitat and repeat the exercise for approximately the same time. Now compare the lists to see if there are any differences. Can you explain why?

Where can we do it?

- Leaf litter of the Lower Woodland Walk or Woodland Walks by Lady Anne's Garden.
- The dry habitat of the stone wall in the Plantsman's Garden. The children will find animals sheltering here. There may be spiders and ants who like dry habitats. Slugs often use the shade to stop themselves drying out. Ladybirds and other beetles shelter here too.
- The wild flower meadow in the Stream Field or Arboretum. Remember only to look from the paths, please do not walk on the beds. Compare this with a mown lawn.



- The flower borders of the formal gardens like the Shrub Rose Garden or the Queen Mother's Garden. Are they as rich with different insects as the wild flower meadows?
- The Mediterranean Garden in Lady Anne's Garden provides a habitat with different types of plants. Does this differ from elsewhere?

When can we do it?

All year round though borders and meadow better in spring and summer.

Follow Up Activity at school

- Look for adaptations of animals living in different habitats
- Design your own creature to survive in a habitat.
- Design a key to identify your animals
- Make a habitat for an invertebrate - wormery or formicarium (ant farm)