



## Abstract

The Cranedale local environment provides a diversity of exciting habitats for children to explore and discover the variety of wildlife on our doorstep. A number of different activities can be chosen from to form either a half-day or whole-day unit. We may set moth or small mammal traps in woodland, pond dip in our specially created pond, go on minibeast safaris in vegetation and habitat piles or use our surroundings to inspire works of art made with natural materials.

## Learning Objectives:

### Pond Dipping:

- To investigate pond life and study invertebrate adaptations
- **Option:** To gain a detailed understanding of the adaptations of a pond invertebrate through microscopy

### Minibeast Safari:

- To discover minibeasts living in local vegetation and habitat piles and study their adaptations

### Wild Art:

- To enhance habitat exploration, creativity and imagination through wild art

### Mammal Trapping:

- To investigate local small mammal populations through the placing of humane Longworth traps

### Moth Trapping:

- To investigate local moth populations through the placing of a Heath trap

### Sensory Perception

- To investigate how different animals make sense of the world around them

## Learning Outcomes:

### Pond Dipping:

- To collect pond invertebrates and use a dichotomous key to identify them
- To explain how invertebrates are adapted to pond life
- **Option:** To complete a detailed drawing of a pond invertebrate annotated with its key adaptations

### Minibeast Safari:

- To experience the use of a variety of minibeast safari kit including pooters, beating trays and sweep nets
- To capture and identify invertebrates and explore their adaptations

### Wild Art:

- To use natural materials to create a 'superbeast' with adaptations based on creatures found in the pond or woodland
- To use clay and natural materials to sculpt a 'Green Man' (spirit of nature) and explore some of the myths and legends surrounding nature
- To explore the shape, colour and texture of natural objects through the design of a mosaic or work of imagination

### Mammal Trapping:

- To learn about types of local mammals and prepare and lay a trap to suit their needs
- To successfully identify any mammals caught

### Moth Trapping:

- To enhance knowledge and understanding of moths and identify key species captured

### Sensory Perception

- To use a variety of senses to explain how animals are adapted to their environment