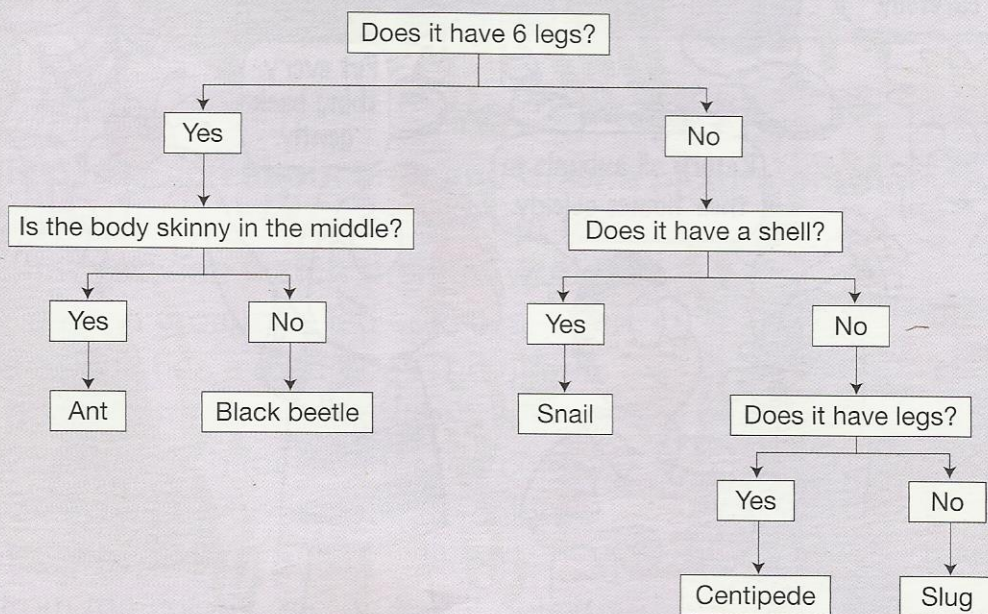


25 – Life on a Footpath

To Do

Here are pictures of some **minibeasts** that you might find on or near any footpath in Ireland. Use the key to name them.



✿ Explore Your Own Footpath

You may think that you have to go to the country or a wildlife park to see wild animals. There are many wild animals and plants right on your doorstep. All you have to do is look. Pick a path around your school or home and see what wildlife is there. Just remember to stay well away from the road.

Dictionary

minibeast: small animal that lives on land or water.

To Do

Whenever the children in Green Town National School want to look at the plants and animals around them, they use something called the Fieldwork Five. Read the Fieldwork Five and answer the questions.



1. What do the children use to help them remember what they have seen?
2. How are they going to handle plants and animals?
3. Why do you think they need to put back stones that they have moved?
4. Why is it important to return all animals to their homes quickly?
5. Make up your own class code to use when looking at plants and animals.

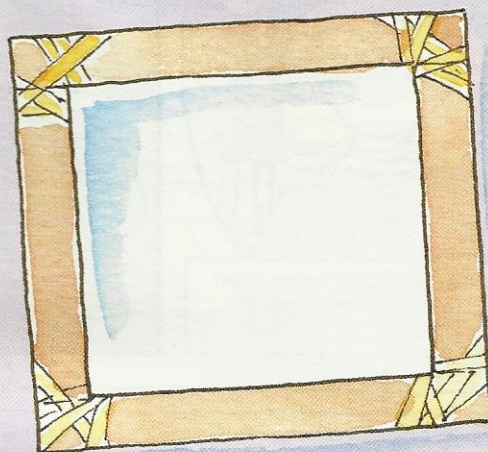


Experiment: Make a quadrat to use when looking at plants and animals on a footpath

What you need: strong cardboard, scissors, sticky tape or masking tape, a ruler

What to do:

1. Cut four strips of cardboard all the same length. They should be about 100 cm long and 4 cm wide.
2. Tape the strips together so they make a square frame.
3. Put your quadrat down so that half of it is on the footpath and half of it is on the grass or flowerbed.
4. Make drawings of everything that is inside the frame.
5. Label your drawings when you get back inside.



To Do

Read this paragraph about ants and draw a picture of what you think an ant colony looks like. Keep an eye out for ants so that you can watch them at work.

Ants live in large groups called colonies. Each ant in the colony has a job to do. The queen ant lays eggs. Some ants look after the eggs and other ants search for food for the colony. There are also ants who protect the colony. Some ants even have the job of taking rubbish from the colony and putting it outside in a special rubbish dump!



When an ant finds a good source of food, it can leave a scent trail so that other ants can collect the food too. An ant can lift up to twenty times its own body weight, so it can carry plenty of food back to the colony to share. Ants cannot chew or swallow solid food. They squeeze the juice from pieces of food first and then swallow the juice. An ant has two stomachs – one for holding food for itself and one for holding food to be shared with other ants!