

AMAZING INVERTEBRATES

These fun activities can be completed outside your meeting place or on a trip to a local park, woodland or nature reserve. For more information about ZSL conservation projects visit: zsl.org/conservation

Introducing Invertebrates

Ask the Cubs if they can think of any animals that do not have a backbone. They may already know soft-bodied animals such as worms, snails, slugs, etc. but there are lots of others that don't have a backbone such as butterflies, bees, spiders, crabs, jellyfish and octopuses.

These are all called invertebrates; animals that do not have a backbone or spine.

There are lots of different types of invertebrates. To sort one from another we look at their similarities and differences. This is called classification.

Sorting activity

You will need:

- Print out the pictures of the invertebrates (one set for each small group)
- Magazines or newspapers (for Cubs to cut out additional images if required).
- Scissors
- Copies of the classification key

Instructions

1. Divide the section into small groups and hand out a set of pictures to each group. Cubs could also find and cut out extra pictures from magazines or newspapers.

2. Ask the Cubs to look at the invertebrates features and think about how they are similar or different. What do some have that others don't (eg wings, colours, shapes or number of legs).
3. Ask them to group the pictures using their own criteria (eg colour, shape or size). There is no right or wrong answer to this they can sort them however they like as long as they are consistent.
4. Introduce the classification key and show how to use it on an example; the classification key is a list of questions with yes or no answers. They must start at the beginning and follow the arrows depending on whether the answer is yes or no. Eventually they will get to the end and this will tell them what group their animal belongs to.
5. Working as a group ask them to practice using the key and work out which invertebrate group each animal belongs to.
6. Go through the answers as a section.

Once the Cubs are familiar with the classification key, plan a walk outside around the meeting place and see what invertebrates the Cubs can spot. Using the key classification, the Cubs have to work out what type of invertebrates they have seen.

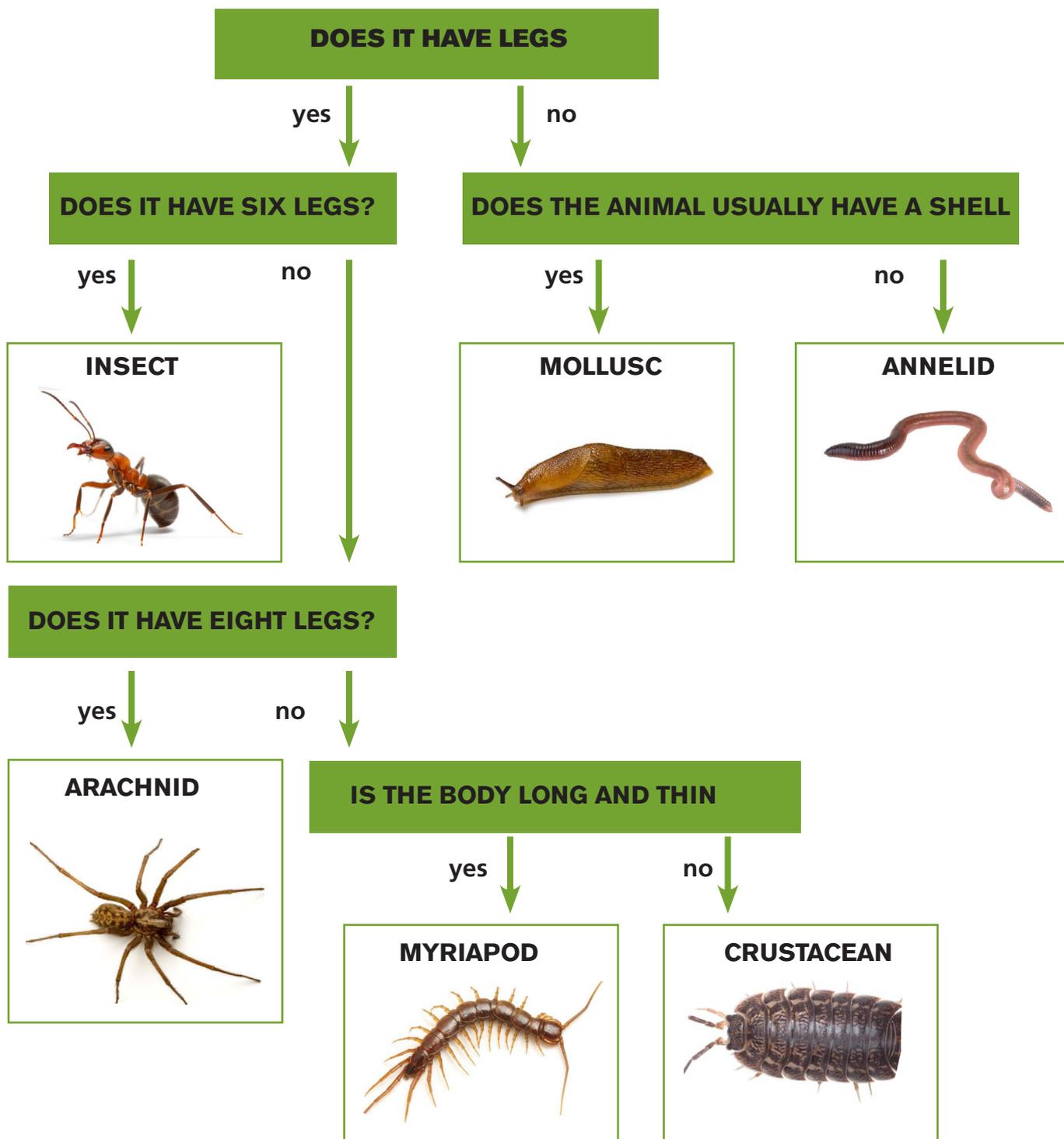
Plan the same walk two or three times a year and see if the different seasons affect what species are uncovered or how they look. Record the findings on the invertebrate spotting sheet.

Visit scouts.org.uk/zsl for more animal activities.

INVERTEBRATE SPOTTING SHEET

What we saw (species)	Where we saw it (microhabitat)	How many we saw (abundance)	Type of invertebrate (classification)	What is looked like (description)
Butterfly	On a bush	2	Insect	Black wings with red markings

CLASSIFICATION KEY



INVERTEBRATE BINGO!

Play this fun game after your sorting activity or Invertebrate spotting walk

Instructions

1. As a group talk about what species you saw on your walk, where you found them and how many you saw.
2. Write the names of the species, habitats or another feature on a big sheet of paper and stick it up on the wall where everyone can see it.
3. Split the section into small teams of 3 or 4. Hand out the BINGO! Worksheet (on the following page, 1x per team).
4. Ask the teams to write down or draw nine of the different species found, in any order, on the sheet.
5. The leader then calls out the name of one of the species, habitats or another feature. Or leaders can write them in the grid below then cut them out and draw from a hat or bowl. Teams circle any that match on their board.

The first team to have all their species or habitats circled is the winner.

cut along the dotted lines

Invertebrate spotting bingo sheet
