



Tiny Traps

Fancy getting out into the great outdoors, rather than sitting in just surfing the net or playing endless computer games? This might be your big chance! Why not look into it today?

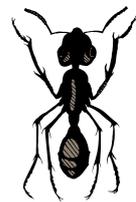


**wildlife
watch**
www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

A pitfall trap is basically a hole in the ground, lined by a container for catching minibeasts, and a cover to protect it from the rain. You could make one in your own garden or school grounds to discover more about the tiny life at ground level.

Here's how to do it:

1. Dig a hole in the ground with a trowel.
2. Put an old yoghurt pot or something similar into the hole. Fill the caps around the edges so that nothing can get stuck between the hole and the container.
3. Bait the trap with cheese, fruit, bacon rinds and bread to attract tiny visitors.
4. Use an old plat or a piece of wood to cover the hole and protect it from the rain. You definitely don't want it to fill with water!



Minibeasts will fall into the trap, attracted by the bait. The slippery sides mean they cannot escape – so you **MUST** check your trap every few hours to see what's there. Use a key or a guidebook to help you identify your animals.

Try laying traps in different places to see if there's a difference in the minibeasts you catch.

Make sure you release all of your captives carefully and remove the trap when you've finished. Fill in the hole!

You might try setting traps near to a badger sett you know. You might find that the badgers pinch the bait, but it might be worth a go. Invertebrates are important food for badgers.



Wildlife Watch is the junior branch of The Wildlife Trusts and the UK's leading environmental action club for kids. If you care about nature and the environment and want to explore your local wildlife – this is the club for YOU!

There are **150,000** Wildlife Watch members around the UK. Taking part in Wildlife Watch is an exciting way to explore your surroundings and get closer to the wildlife you share it with.

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YOUR ANIMAL

What have you caught?.....

How many legs does it have?

How does it move?

Does it move quickly or slowly?

Where did you find it?

What was it doing?

Was it eating? What?

What colour is it?

Why do you think it is that colour?

Does it have wings? How many?

Can you see any SEGMENTS? How many?

Draw your animal.

