WILDLIFE WONDERS

Bring along a bug

Everyone in the Patrol chooses to be a different bug or animal. Imagine that all of the bugs are in a hot air balloon. The balloon is running out of fuel and once every two minutes a bug must leave the balloon.

Argue why your bug should stay and then vote for who should leave the balloon. What benefits are there in keeping each creature? Carry on until there is one bug or animal left. Why did this creature survive?

For example:

- Bees pollinate flowers and make honey
- Spiders spin webs
- Worms help keep the soil healthy for plants to grow in.

Flower power

Are insects attracted to flowers of a particular colour or scent?

Put pots of different coloured flowers, such as pansies or busy Lizzies, outside on a sunny day. Sit back and watch. Count how many insects visit each coloured pot.

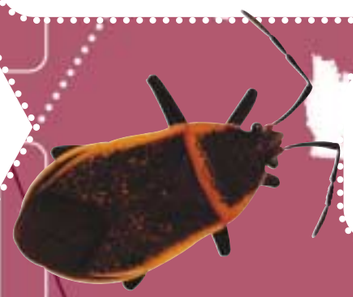
Which colour flower attracts the most insects? Do you need to use real flowers? Have a go at making paper flowers and even try spraying them with perfume to see whether that makes any difference. Do they attract any insects?

Take care

Be careful of bee and wasp stings, especially if you are allergic to them.

You will need

- Potted flowers
- Coloured paper
- Perfume



Did you know?

Some insects and birds also see ultraviolet (UV) light, whereas we only see visible light.

Pond dipping

Find a suitable area, for example, a pond in a park, a wetlands site or even a beach to investigate. In your Patrol, dip the nets in different areas. If you don't have fishing nets, why not try making your own using some nets, garden cane, garden wire or a wire coat hanger and string?

Compare what you find in each place by filling margarine tubs with a small amount of water and emptying the contents of each net into different tubs. Examine what kinds of creatures you have found. Can you name them all using the keys? See Web watch below for help. Have a go at drawing some of the creatures and the place where you found them.

Take care

Be aware of water safety and always make sure an adult knows where you are.

Take note

Make sure that you put everything back in the place where you found it when you finish and take all your nets and other equipment away with you.

You will need

- Garden nets
- Nets (try small mesh nets that oranges come in)
- Garden cane
- Garden wire/wire coat hanger
- String
- Empty margarine tubs
- Pencils
- Paper or notebook

Web watch

Visit www.teachers.ash.org.au/jmresources/pond/life.html for a key to different pond species.

Quiz answers

Page 3
Slime

Hair mousse – slime
Ice – solid
Tomato ketchup – slime
Lemonade – liquid
Chair – solid
Mouthwash – liquid
Toothpaste – slime
Apple – solid
Silly putty – slime

Page 4
Geological tray bakes

Milky way – a meteorite with a fusion crust

Solid milk chocolate – iron meteorite

Bubbly milk chocolate – igneous rock from an explosive eruption

Chocolate brownies – igneous rock that cooled slowly as magma

Page 9
Science quiz

1 d

2 d – The Milky Way has four spiral arms radiating out from a central cluster of stars or 'nucleus'. Our solar system is located on one of the spiral arms, quite far from the centre.

3 a – A shark's skeleton is made of cartilage, a material softer and more flexible than bone.

4 d
5 a
6 a
7 c
8 c