



Your School Guide to Taking Action for Insects



#ActionForInsects



For teachers: Taking action for insects

Our bugs, moths, butterflies and other minibeasts are in deep trouble. Insects are dying out up to eight times faster than larger animals and 41% of insects face extinction.

But all is not lost. Urgent action is needed to reverse this trend, which is why The Wildlife Trusts have launched the Action for Insects campaign www.wildlifetrusts.org/take-action-insects and want schools to get involved.

As part of the campaign, we have created a series of learning sessions and resources that you can access online at www.wildlifetrusts.org and that we hope you will find inspiring and help to get your class excited about insects! Whether its through doing a 'great bug hunt', creating insect homes and hotels in your school grounds, or delivering a campaign to help insects, there are lots of ways that your school can make a difference and learn at the same time.

Through six sessions, which can be delivered as a series or as stand alone activities, your students will be encouraged to learn about habitats and to investigate



Photo: Paul Harris / 2020VISION

their local environment, whilst considering their place in it and how they can change it for the better. They'll have excellent opportunities for writing with a purpose, and developing skills in simple classification, creative arts, geography and science exploration.

Each session comes with its own detailed delivery plan and can be delivered within whatever timeframe suits you and your students – from an afternoon's lesson to a full multi-week programme.

Enjoy! And please share what you are doing – send us your pictures, videos, letters to watch@wildlifetrusts.org – and share on your social media using **#ActionForInsects**

To find out more about this campaign, please go to www.wildlifetrusts.org

Session	Summary of Activities
1. Can it be true?	To introduce the amazing world of insects, a series of facts and figures will be used to identify the incredible work that they do - from pollination to composting.
2. When is bug not a bug?	An introduction to the different types of insects found in the UK and resources to conduct a great bug hunt.
3. How insect-friendly is our school?	Using their knowledge of differences between creatures to survey different parts of the school to discover where the best and worst areas are for insects.
4. Where have all the insects gone?	Students explore the reasons for loss of the insects. Students can consider what the future would look like without insects through poetry, art or music.
5. What can we do?	Students will explore different ways to help insects, from habitat creation through to changing behaviours in gardening and lifestyles.
6. Action for Insects	Using their learning from the previous sessions, students will create and run their own Action for Insects activity or project. This could be a practical task such as creating a wildflower meadow or bug hotel in the school grounds, or a campaign to encourage others to do things for insects in their gardens and communities.

Learning and nature



The Wildlife Trusts believe that everyone should have the chance to experience and learn more about the natural world in their daily lives. By ensuring people of all ages and backgrounds have access to, and education in, the natural world, we can improve mental and physical wellbeing, and safeguard the environment for the future.

We know that:

- Accessing wildlife-rich places brings health and wellbeing benefits and increases our feeling of connection with nature and works for people of all ages and backgrounds.¹
- Children exposed to green spaces for 20 minutes a day engage in five times more physical activity.²
- Children in deprived areas are nine times less likely to have access to green space and places to play.³

The New Economics Foundation (NEF) 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' – **Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning, Give** – is an evidenced based framework of actions that can improve personal wellbeing and outdoors learning can support all these actions. Because people and nature's wellbeing are so connected to each other, we have added a 6th way – **'Care For The Planet'**. By experiencing and learning about the natural world, people feel better and are far more likely to understand how they can take better care of it.

The Wildlife Trusts would like every school child in every place of learning to be able to spend at least an hour outside every day, immersed in inspiring wild play and nature-based learning experiences. **Taking part in Action for Insects in your schools is a great place to start** or a great way of developing outdoor learning you may already have in place.

There are lots of great ideas and resources in this pack and at www.wildlifetrusts.org and your local Wildlife Trust may have school's projects local to you.



Photo: Misty Hutton / Avon Wildlife Trust

¹ The Wildlife Trusts 30 Days Wild 5 Year Review www.wildlifetrusts.org/30-days-wild-5-year-review: Nature Connectedness among adults and children In England <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6005041314136064>

² The Importance of Nature for Health (Wells et al 2007, Bowler et al 2010)

³ Greater Expectations - Raising Aspirations for our Children (National Children's Bureau 2013) [www.ncb.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/Policy_docs/GEXP_final WEB.pdf](http://www.ncb.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/Policy_docs/GEXP_final_WEB.pdf)

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No matter where you live in the UK, there is a Wildlife Trust inspiring people about the natural world. Each day we work to save, protect and stand up for the wildlife and wild places near you.

Supported by more than 850,000 members, we take action for insects on our 2,300 nature reserves, through our work with a whole range of people and sectors including learning and school communities, individual teachers and a whole range of educational establishments. By encouraging everybody to look after insects where they live. We hope that you will join us.



The Wildlife Trusts
info@wildlifetrusts.org
wildlifetrusts.org

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#ActionForInsects

#WilderFuture