

# EXPLORERS



## Outdoor Box - Pit-Fall Insect Traps

This activity is for Explorers  
but any section or leaders  
could take part too !

### What you need:

- Trowel
- Yoghurt pot (clean)
- Tray
- Leaves
- Soil
- Identification Guide (optional)



### How to make it:

A pit-fall trap is a simple device used to catch insects and invertebrates that spend time on the ground in your garden.

It consists of a container buried, so that its top is level with the surface of the ground. Any creatures that wander by may fall in.

1. Choose a location for your trap on flat ground near vegetation.
2. Use a trowel to dig a small hole.
3. Place a clean yoghurt pot in the hole and fill up any gaps around the pot with soil, making sure that the top of the container is level with the ground, or the trap won't work.
4. Add some soil and a collection of leaves to the trap to provide a soft landing for anything falling into the trap. This will also provide some camouflage.
5. Leave the trap overnight, or if you prefer, during the day, but in this case the trap will need to be checked every few hours, empty the contents of the pot onto the tray to check for mini beasts.
6. Record your findings or take photographs if you prefer.
7. Carefully release any creatures that are caught and return the area back to how you found it.
8. Use the National History Museums Guide to identify invertebrates that fall into your trap.  
[Click here](#) to download a copy of the useful guide.

**IMPORTANT** - you must release anything that is caught in the trap as soon as possible and then remove the trap from your garden, so that no wildlife is harmed in any way.

### Take it further:

You could keep a log of the wildlife that you catch in your trap.

Search online to identify any wildlife that you find in the trap. Why not try the experiment at different times of the year too and see how visiting mini beasts change during the year.

### Safety Notes:

**Gardening and Nature:** Wash your hands after the activity has finished and wear gloves if needed.

**Online Access:** Supervise young people when they're online and give them advice about staying safe.