

Adaptive Arthropods



Nature in action

KLAs: Science	LESSON TOPIC: Understanding invertebrates and their features
YEAR LEVEL: K-10	DURATION OF ACTIVITY: 45-50 minutes

Animals have features that allow them to fit perfectly into their little corner of the world. Close observation allows us to understand more about how animals fit so well into nature. In this activity, we delve into the Natural History Museum collections to examine arthropods to understand how these animals work, what makes them so special, and why they are one of the most successful groups on Earth.

This activity unlocks the study of arthropods in three key ways:

- Comparing and contrasting: study a range of arthropod species and explore the similarities and differences between them.
- Mindful observation: Observe the different features that relate to adaptation to different environments and ways of life.
- Creative documentation of these species through pencil illustration. Draw what you see, concentrating on unique and interesting features of each animal.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:

- appreciate the importance of museum collections as a scientific resource, why we collect organisms, and what they can tell us
- develop knowledge and understanding of arthropods, appreciate their diversity and success on our planet

- explain how different animals are built, and use observation to compare and contrast different animals
- develop skills in scientific illustration, through free-hand pencil drawing, close observation of specimens and attention to detail in their representation

EXPLORATORY AND PLAY-BASED COMPONENTS

This activity combines scientific enquiry with natural history and observation. Within the museum, children will be exposed to an environment where they can spend time focused on drawing and exploring why different animals possess different features.