

# Adaptive Arthropods



## Nature in action

KLAs: Science	LESSON TOPIC: Adaptations, scientific drawing
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 how animals have become adapted to their environment. 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.
- Careful observation: Observe the different features that relate to adaptation to different environments and ways of life.
- Creative documentation of these animals through pencil illustration. Draw what you see, concentrating on unique and interesting features of each animal and thinking about how each feature can enhance survival and reproduction.

## 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
- Observe how animals are built, and compare and contrast different animals, investigating how differences in features can reflect adaptations to different environments and niches.
- 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, students can use scientific equipment and techniques to create drawings, explore why different animals possess different features and predict how these features aid in survival and reproduction.