

# What's in my soil?

WALT: Use observation skills to find out what kinds of invertebrates live in which habitats

## Pre site visit lesson

Materials needed:

- Accompanying worksheets
- Pencils
- Optional: magnifying glasses or handheld microscopes

## On-site lesson

Explain to the learners that they will be searching for insects that live on or in the ground. Set clear expectations about caring for the site. Learners may gently lift objects from the ground, move grass and vegetation aside, and look underneath long grass while searching. Emphasise that they must not break foliage or dig deep holes, especially when working on the Living Laboratories site. All objects should be carefully returned to where they were found.

Invite learners to roam the site slowly and quietly, using their observation skills to look for insects. Encourage patience and careful searching rather than rushing.

Prompt learners with questions to support their thinking about where insects might live. For example: Where might a ground-dwelling insect feel safest? Somewhere warm or cold? Somewhere dark or light? Use these questions to help learners reflect on and improve their search methods.

As insects are found, encourage learners to observe them closely using magnifying glasses or handheld microscopes if available. Learners can record what they notice on the accompanying worksheets.

You may choose to use the iNaturalist website or app to help identify some of the insects found. This can be modelled by the teacher or used collaboratively with learners.

Bring learners together to discuss the different insects observed. Talk about shared features and differences and begin grouping insects based on what they have in common. For example, some insects have wings while others do not, and some have long legs while others have short legs. Explain that noticing similarities and differences is the foundation of species classification.

# What's in my soil?



Things with legs!



You might even find some things with a shell



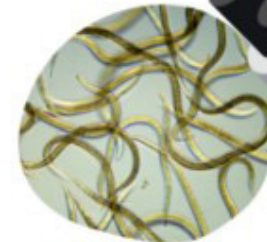
Or.. things with no legs!



Some things in the soil might even have wings!



Some things with lots of segments - like "body parts"



And some things living in the soil are so small, you can only see them with a microscope!





Earth worm



Garden snail



Slater



Soil mite



Ground beetle



Slug

Did you see any cool things in the soil?  
Write it down!

e soil?  
down!

A red circular sticker with a simple white smiley face, located in the bottom right corner of the page.