



## FREDDY'S ACTIVITY PAGE

### BE AN INSECT INVESTIGATOR

You need: a white, plastic ice cream tub, a piece of white card, a white sheet, a clear plastic cup if you have one, a magnifying glass, a notebook and some crayons. You also need an identification book if possible. Good ones are: *Minibeasts: an Identification Key*, by Peter Smithers, with drawings by John Walters and *Collins Guide to the Insects of Britain and Western Europe*.



**1** On a dry, summer day, sit in a garden or by a quiet footpath, hedge, wall or flowery field and look carefully until you see small creatures scuttling around.



**4** Draw each creature. Write down details such as how many legs, how many spots, whether it has wings, and what colour it is.



**2** Get a minibeast to walk onto your piece of card and tip it gently into the tub. If it is too fast for you, put the tub on its side and carefully herd the minibeast in with the card, or place the see-through cup upside-down over the minibeast, being very careful not to squash its antennae or legs.



**5** Look up each minibeast in a book. Is it an insect, and is it an adult? Have you discovered something new to science? It's possible!

**6** Put the minibeasts back where you found them.



**3** For quicker results, put your white sheet under a bush and beat the bush once, sharply, with a strong stick. The insects in the bush will fall out onto your sheet.



For expert advice on catching, viewing, finding out about and looking after minibeasts, with brilliant writing and pictures, read *Nick Baker's Bug Book*, published by New Holland in association with The Wildlife Trusts.

We will return to the amazing butterfly and bug world in future editions of *Pawprint*.