



Be an ANIMAL DETECTIVE!

Turn private eye and use your sleuthing skills to track a creature and build up an animal case file



YOUR ANIMAL CASE FILE

My animal is...

.....

My animal looks like...
(DESCRIBE OR DRAW ITS PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS)

.....

Observe its behaviour – what is it doing?

.....

What are its feeding habits?

.....

Describe its habitat...

.....

How does it interact with other species?

.....

What impact do humans have on it?

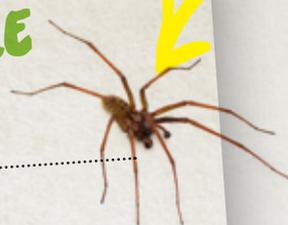
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How does it interact with its environment?

.....

What effect does the weather have on the animal?

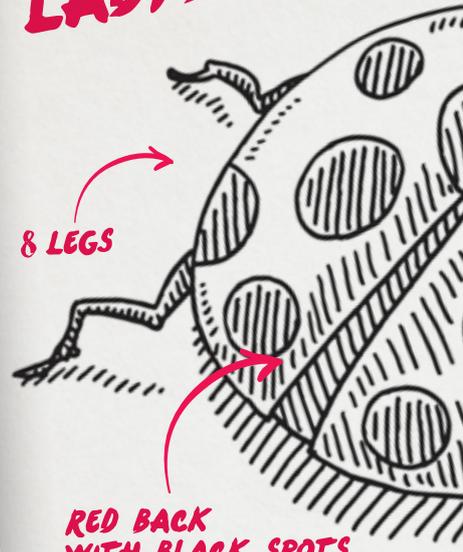
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MY LADYBIRD!

8 LEGS

RED BACK WITH BLACK SPOTS





WHAT TO DO...

ACTIVITY Suitable for Beavers and Cubs

You will need

- Photocopies of the case file
- Pens or pencils
- Camera
- Recording device

Instructions

1 Help your young people decide what animal or group of animals they are going to study – observing one species is best. Decide between domestic animals or those living in the wild, for example, insects, garden birds, spiders or ants in the back yard. If choosing domestic pets, anything from dogs, cats, fish and hamsters will all make fine studies. If your young people don't have pets at home, see if their relatives or neighbours have pets they can observe.

2 Next, think about the environment in which the animal lives and how practical it will be to get there. The length of study time is three months so once or twice a week is a good number of times to aim for, depending on ease of access. If you're studying a tiger in the zoo, for example, one trip a month will be enough.

3 Study the creature for three months and keep a detailed record of them, using the Animal Case File on the left. It would be interesting to observe them at different times of the day. Base your findings on a mix of real-life observations, using library resources and internet research.

BADGE



Pets at Home partners the Beaver Animal Friends and Cub Animal Carer Activity Badges

PARTNER



where pets come first

OUTCOMES

Your Scouts will enhance their observation skills and learn how some animals behave and why. They will see how the animals they have chosen find food and shelter, what kind of habitats they prefer and how they interact with other animals and humans.

TAKING IT FURTHER

To fulfil badge requirements, your young people could make video diaries of their time with the animals they're studying. Or they could join an animal, bird or wildlife society that takes an interest in the specific animal they've been studying and complete one of its suggested activities, or take part in any rewards scheme it may offer, and they'll be well on their way.

MORE INFORMATION

For more activity ideas and to download Activity Badge resources, visit scouts.org.uk/petsathome.

4 As well as writing their findings in their animal case files, collect pictures cut out from magazines, take photos and draw sketches. The Scouts might also record their animal's sounds and even make video recordings of their animals.



LEAVE THEM ALONE
Make sure you don't disturb the animal's natural environment, interfere with their relationships or disrupt their routine