

Bug Banquet game – leader's notes

people's
trust for
endangered
species

Bringing the wild back to life

Essential information

Age range: All ages

Group size: 30 or less depending on amount of outdoor space

Time needed: 15 mins

Curriculum links:

Science : Yr 1 Animals, Yr 2 Living things and their habitats, Animals, Yr 3 Animals, Yr 4 Living things and their habitats, Animals, Yr 5 Living things and their habitats.

Also links to Mathematics, Physical Education and Art and Design units

Setting: Outdoors

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Background to activity

During this fun active game children will learn about hedgehog food chains, competition, habitats and life cycles.

Materials needed

- ▶ 5 double sided bug cards per child, (see bug banquet cards download)
- ▶ Whistle

Running the activity

Print (double sided), cut and laminate the required number of bug cards. Find an outdoor space large enough for your group to run around in safely. Ask the children to make a large circle, then scatter the cards evenly on the ground (or even in surrounding plants/bushes) with the bug image facing upwards. Explain to the children they are now hedgehogs and the aim of the game is to collect as many bug cards, their food, as possible to stay alive. On your whistle they will start and finish their 'hunt' for food. Once the hunt is over ask the children to count up their bug cards, as well as what fraction of those that have a poison symbol on the other side. If more than half are poisoned bugs, they die from poisoning too and are out. The remaining hedgehogs play again, but this time put less bug cards out. If the hedgehogs survive 2 rounds they have enough energy to reproduce and can tag a friend back in the game.

Extension activities

- ▶ Back in the classroom draw out a hedgehog food chain, with and without the poison.
- ▶ Design posters to warn gardeners about the dangers of poisons, such as slug pellets and pesticides, to hedgehogs.

