



WEB WATCH 11



INSECTS AND OTHER INVERTEBRATES 1

Compiled by **Henricus Peters**, *NAEF Executive*

As this year celebrates 'Darwin 200', the focus here is on some of our smaller creatures that so inspired Darwin or 'mini-beasts' which children love to spot! Websites are chosen for inclusion here due to their information content as related to the curriculum and ease of navigation, with the focus on UK websites.

GENERAL SITES

www.thebigbuzz.biz/curriculum_links.html#NATCURRLINKS

Details of KS1 and 2 curriculum

The Royal Entomological Society **www.royensoc.co.uk**

has a downloadable 'Garden Entomology Guide' and runs **www.nationalinsectweek.co.uk/**

National Insect Week (next event is 2010).

Insect Surveys has several campaigns; Fun Staff has 'interesting facts', 'invent an insect', 'make a dragonfly'; Insect Index with pictures of small range of invertebrates. Education and Resources has 'Bees in the Curriculum' pack at **www.britishbee.org.uk/bees4kids/schools_pack.php**;

12 downloadable illustrated factsheets, spotting and observation forms plus science topics for England, Scotland and Wales. Also new factsheets by NIW/ Game and Wildlife Trust, for example 'Insects as Pollinators' and the new 'Growing Schools Programme' highlighting insects' importance in growing food such as broad beans. Useful lists of children's books, poetry and music, academic journals and other websites. **KS2.**

www.buglife.org.uk



Buglife is a group 'saving Britain's rarest little animals'. Discover has 'what is an invertebrate', 'where do different invertebrates live' and fact sheets on popular bugs (not illustrated). Also excerpts from 'Bug Buddies' Newsletter for younger readers – making a wormery and hotel;

downloadable colouring-in sheets and a word-search. Getting Involved has details for creating wildlife gardens, and numerous surveys and resources for members. **KS2.**

Natural History Museum **www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/life/insects-spiders/index.html**. Insects and Spiders has bug forum, ID guides and keys including spider bites and several video guides. Other Invertebrates has earthworms, parasitic organisms and woodlouse ID key. Some useful links. 'Life when you're small' **www.nhm.ac.uk/kids-only/life/life-small** comprises bees, butterflies and cockroaches (not linked). **KS1 and 2.** **www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/biodiversity/nature-navigator/** is a new guide, illustrated with artworks from the Museum's collections. **KS2.**

Underfives **www.underfives.co.uk/minibst.html**.

A good starting-point for investigating mini-beasts, with slide shows of caterpillar to butterfly, picture gallery and children's books.

Bees **www.bumblebeeconservationtrust.co.uk/surveys.htm** Requests for digital photos; Kids-stuff spot-the-difference, colouring pages and ID guides.

Butterflies **www.butterfly-conservation.org**

A to Z of butterflies and moths and priority species factsheets; Learn has teacher resources, curriculum guides, factsheets and lots of games.

Moths **www.mothscount.org/site** Site encourages interest in moths in the UK and aims to establish an ongoing recording scheme. Link to **http://www.nationalmothnight.info**.

Worms **yucky.discovery.com/flash/worm** Discovery Channel's 'Yuckiest Site on the Internet'. A fun site with pages including All About Earthworms, Worms as Recyclers and Cousins; also Roachworld **yucky.discovery.com/flash/roaches/index.html** with A Day in the life of, Roach anatomy and quiz.

For 'live' links, see the website at:

www.naef.org.uk

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