

Science Club: Wood bugs

Today we studied wood bugs and made a habitat for them.

First, we did some experiments to find out where they like to live (under rotting wood) and what they like to eat best.

Then we looked at them closely with a magnifier and saw that they have segments and 14 legs. We learned that they are crustaceans, closely related to shrimp. Just like shrimp, they breathe with gills, so they need to stay moist.

We went on a hunt to find wood bugs in the school grounds.

With all that we had learned about them, we made them a habitat.

The habitat is in our classrooms until next science club.

If you want to look for wood bugs at home, you know where they like to hide. Please be very gentle with them as they are fragile. If possible, use a soft paintbrush to move them.

If you make your own habitat for them, an old salad container works well.

They need:

- wet sand on the bottom (to keep them moist). Keep the sand damp, but not soggy. If you need to make the sand a little damp, use water that has been standing overnight (so the chlorine has come out of it).
- rotting wood (to hide under, eat and keep moist). If you find them on wood, use some of that.
- food (just a little piece of old vegetable, or the leaves that you found them near). Do not put so much food in that it goes mouldy - if you do see mould take it out right away.



When you are done keeping them, put them back where you found them.

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