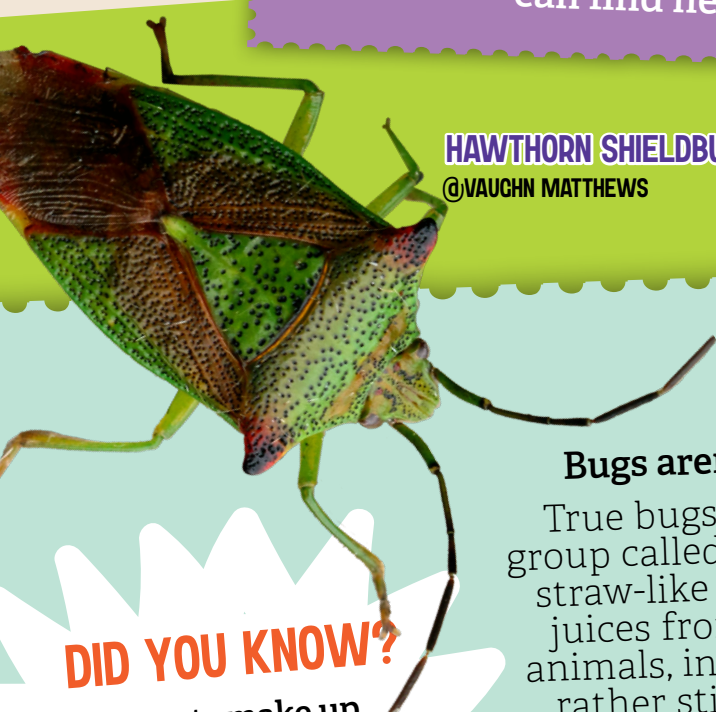


MEET THE MINI-MARVELS

WITH NO BACKBONE!



That's not us being rude, these fantastic beings truly have no backbone! Lots of wonderful creatures – sometimes called 'creepy' crawlies – have this one thing in common, although there's plenty that sets them apart from each other too. Here are just some types of invertebrates that you can find here in the UK, Alderney and Isle of Man.



HAWTHORN SHIELDBUG
@VAUCHN MATTHEWS

BUGS

Bugs aren't just any insect!

True bugs belong to a special group called Hemiptera and have straw-like mouths for sucking juices from plants and other animals, including insects! We'd rather stick to a milkshake... They have two pairs of wings and many also live in the water, like the water boatman and water scorpion.

DID YOU KNOW?

Insects make up the largest group of invertebrates – so all insects are invertebrates, but not all invertebrates are insects! Spiders, worms and molluscs are all invertebrates too.

SPIDERS

Amazingly, there are over 650 species of spiders in the UK.

These guys aren't insects, as rather than having six legs, they've pulled out all the stops and grown eight. Some spiders put these to good effect and even manage to walk on water, like the raft spider. You're more likely to see a house spider though, who like to weave their webs in our sheds and garages. Around half our spiders spin complex webs in silk to catch food or attract a mate, whilst others use different hunting and dating strategies.

LOOKING FLY

Some invertebrates have a hard outer casing around their body, called an exoskeleton. Insects (like flies), spiders and crustaceans all have this exoskeleton. Whereas other invertebrates, like worms, slugs and jellyfish have a soft body.



GARDEN SPIDER
@JON HAWKINS



ROBBERFLY
@JON HAWKINS

BEETLES

So, not all invertebrates are insects, and not all insects are beetles – but beetles do make up the biggest group of insects in the world!

There are over 4,000 different beetles in the UK. Many have weird and wonderful habits, from the black oil beetle that hitchhikes a free ride on a bee, only to be taken back to its nest to eat its eggs, to the sexton beetle that likes to meet its date on the body of a dead animal or bird and then bury it afterwards, so that their babies can eat it when they hatch.



7-SPOT LADYBIRD
@JON HAWKINS

FLIES

There's lots of diversity in the fly world, with over 7,000 different flies in the UK.

Some are pollinators, like hoverflies, and others are deadly predators, like robberflies that eat other small insects. Unlike lots of other insects, flies only have one pair of wings. Instead of a second pair to help them steer whilst flying, they use tiny organs to help them balance and navigate called halteres. Ever wondered how a fly can stand on walls and ceilings? It's because they've sticky feet! Very handy.

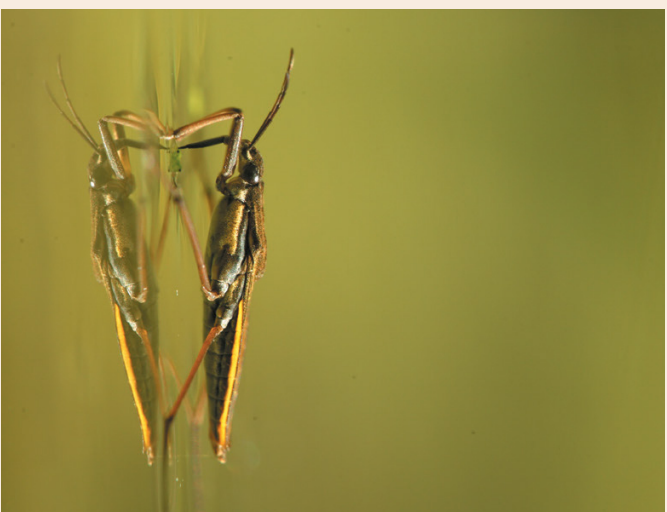


MARMALADE HOVERFLY
@FRANK PORCH

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles are all vertebrates. Unlike the invertebrates here, they have a backbone inside their body.

MINIBEAST SAFARI



POND SKATER



HAWTHORN SHIELDBUG



MARMALADE HOVERFLY



NOON FLY



HARVESTMAN



GARDEN SPIDER



7-SPOT LADYBIRD



RED SOLDIER BEETLE



YELLOW MEADOW ANT


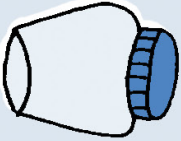
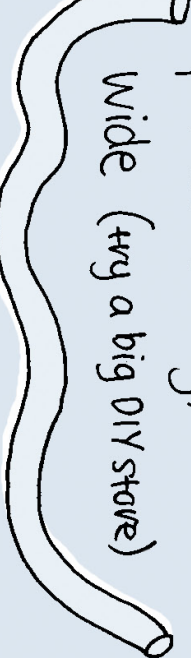
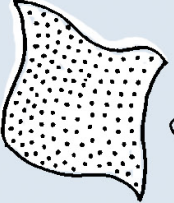





GREEN LACEWING

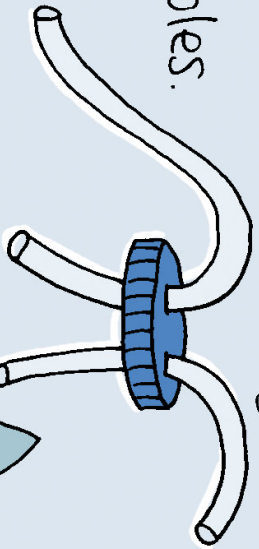
How to make a pooter

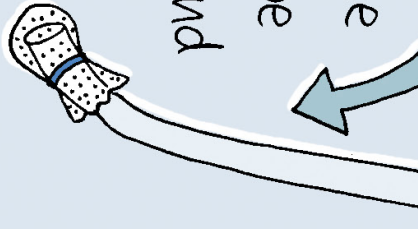
30 Days Wild!


What you need:

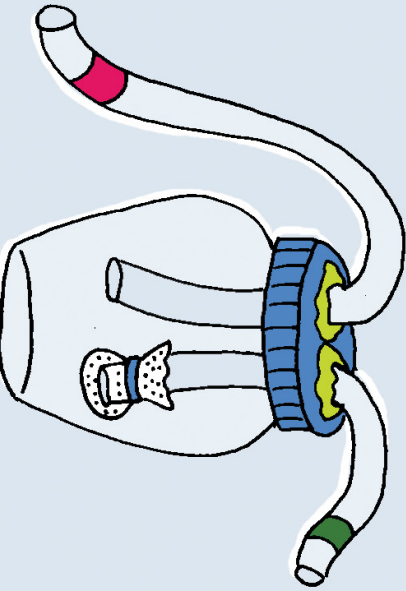
- plasticine 
- jar with lid 
- 40cm of clear, flexible plastic tubing, 7-10cm wide (try a big DIY store) 
- a small piece of gauze, net curtains or tights 
- elastic band 
- green and red stickers or tape 

1 Make 2 holes in the lid (ask an adult to help with this) 

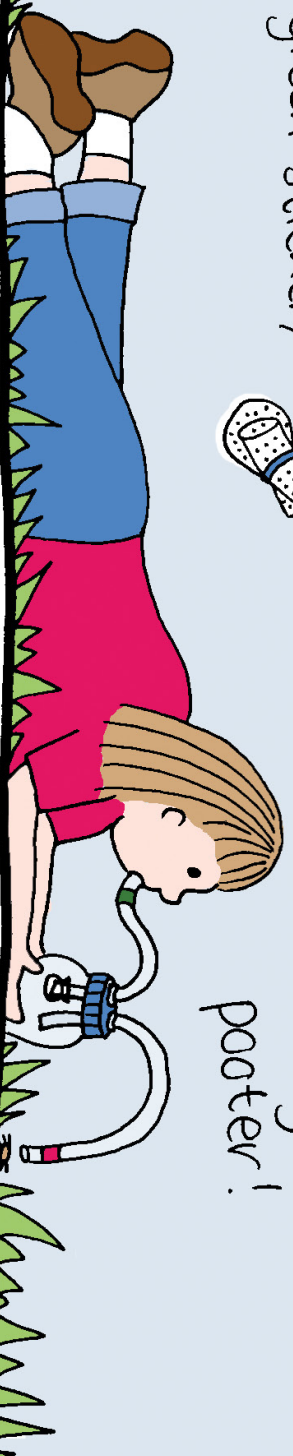
2 Cut 2 lengths of tubing about 15cm and 25cm long and poke them through the holes. 

3 Put the gauze over the end of the shorter tube and mark the other end with a green sticker/tape. 

4 Mark the longer tube with a red sticker/tape (red means 'don't suck this tube'). 

5 Put some plasticine around the tube holes to make them airtight. 

Now you're ready to pooter!



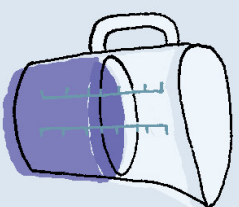
Make an edible pond

30 Days Wild!

You will need:

- 500ml pack of lime jelly
- Sachet of blackcurrant jelly
- Sachet of gelatine*
- Blue food colouring
- Dragon fruit, cooked tapioca or soaked chia seeds
- Jelly worms, snakes, bugs or fish
- Green fruit rolls
- Green grapes
- Chocolate frogs
- 1 litre clear bowl
- Measuring jugs
- Sieve
- Scissors

*There are vegetarian alternatives like agar agar, that you can use.



Follow packet instructions to mix each colour of jelly in a jug. Allow jelly to cool (but not set) before pouring it into the bowl to create a new layer.

In your bowl, allow each new layer of jelly to set for an hour in the fridge before adding another layer.

LAYER FOUR

Half a pint of gelatine, add a few drops of blue food colouring

LAYER THREE

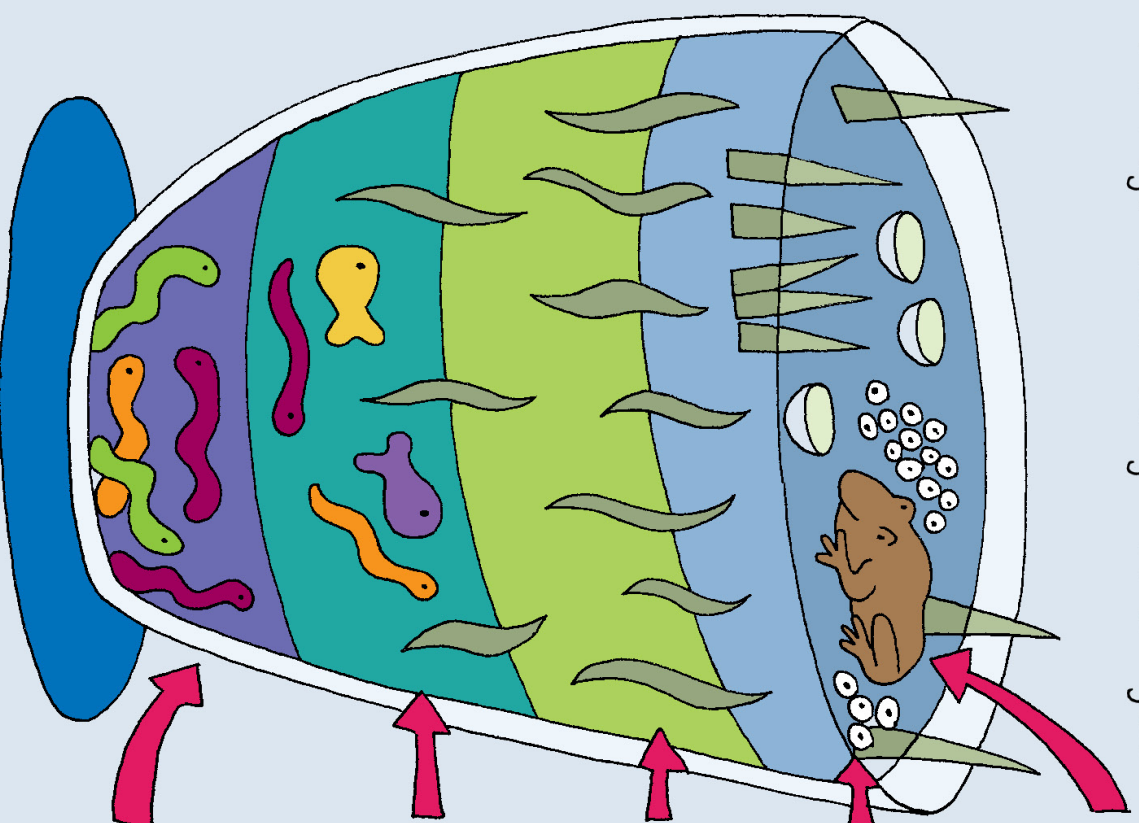
Remaining green jelly

LAYER TWO

Half the green jelly & two drops of blue food colouring

LAYER ONE

Make up the blackcurrant jelly, pour it into the bowl, and leave to set.



Add a chocolate frog near the spawn and enjoy!

A clump of chopped dragon fruit, tapioca, or chia seeds (frogspawn) with some sliced green grapes (lily pads).

Stick the remaining reed shapes upright into the jelly

Another layer of worms or bugs and half of reed shapes cut from the apple fruit bar

A layer of jelly worms

Discover more activities at
www.wildlifewatch.org.uk