

## Local Living Things

<u>What is it? Do you know what it is?</u> Have a go at writing the name of it.	<u>Where did you find it?</u> Write down which area you found it in. Add details about the habitat conditions such as shady, light, damp, dry.	<u>What does it look like?</u> Draw a quick sketch, jot down details like how many legs or wings, take a photo.

## **Observing and collecting Guidelines**

Pick up insects using a plastic spoon or a paintbrush as they are delicate and can be easily harmed. There are a number of ways you can search – looking carefully in leaf litter, soil, grass or overturning logs, stones, etc. and carefully replacing them; ‘tree beating’ – lay a large white sheet under a tree branch or bush while you shake it vigorously (you might have to be quick to spot some of the creatures if they can fly, e.g. lacewing or run fast, e.g. spider!); use a sweep net to check what lives in long grass or nettles; use a pond net to collect creatures from a pond. A small number of leaves can be taken from the plant, but it can damage the plant if too many are taken. You must check with an adult before touching a plant – many common British plants can be poisonous.



**Safety:** Do not put your hands near your mouth after searching for or handling insects until you have washed them. Also nettles, brambles, ponds, etc. can be hazardous. Remember to treat living things with respect and care, and all specimens of insects should be returned to their habitat unharmed.