

Mini Blitz

Biodiversity Detective Information Sheet

The study of insects

No matter where you live or what you do, you will be able to find insects. Insects are the most abundant animals on earth. They can live in just about any situation or climate. People who make careers of studying insects are called entomologists. If you're curious about insects, where they live, and how they affect our lives, you can become an entomologist by making your own Pooter.

What is a Pooter?

An aspirator, that we fondly call a 'Pooter', is an entomological device used to collect and study insects or other small, fragile organisms. It consists of a small transparent airtight container with two protruding tubes. One tube is to put in your mouth and the other acts as a vacuum to suck up bugs safely without damaging them.



The idea is that the collector sucks on one end of the flexible tube creating suction. The insect will be sucked into the container. Because there is a filter over the end of the mouthpiece tube, the insect remains in the container.



You can examine the captured insect in the container as it does not have to be transferred immediately. You can easily

move it to study more closely under a microscope by unscrewing the lid. After you have finished examining your specimen make sure you release it unharmed in its natural habitat.

How to make your own Pooter

Equipment:

- a clear plastic container with a tight fitting lid
- plastic tubing (irrigation, hardware stores)
- drill with drill bit the same diameter as the tubing
- piece of fabric as filter (stocking, fine mesh)
- small rubber band or tape to fasten on the filter



Drill a hole in the lid and the bottom of the container. Cut two pieces of plastic tubing. Mark one piece of tubing with tape – this is the mouthpiece tube for sucking. Thread this tube through the bottom of the container. Wrap the end of the mouthpiece tube with fabric and fasten with a rubber band. Screw the lid on and thread the other tube through – this is the collection tube.

Definition of *pooter* in English:

pooter

Line breaks: poo|ter

Pronunciation: /'pu:teɪ /

NOUN

chiefly *Entomology*

A bottle for collecting small insects and other invertebrates, having one tube through which they are sucked into the bottle and another, protected by muslin or gauze, which is sucked.

MORE EXAMPLE SENTENCES

Origin

1930s: said to be from the name of William Poos (1891–1987), American entomologist.