

# Heath beasts and Heath homes

Hampstead Heath is a great place to explore the connections between plants, animals and their habitats. Through mini-beast hunts, bird watching, pond dipping and games, learners can have the opportunity to explore nature up-close and in their local environment.

The Heath is home to a great variety of life and can be seen as a mosaic of habitats, such as acid and neutral grassland, secondary woodland containing some veteran trees, ponds and heathland.

Within these habitats are some of the UK's most intriguing wildlife including stag beetles, dragonflies, newts, toads, centipedes and grebes. Visiting schools can have the luxury of using one of our two teaching gardens where habitats are maintained specifically for wildlife and provide a safe learning enclosure away from dogs and the general public. These spaces include a safe environment for pond dipping from a wooden platform.

The Heath beasts sessions are designed to perfectly compliment the Life Science Curriculum from Year 2 up to Year 6 and focus on the learning outcomes and subject matter for each year group... from plants and animals in the local environment to life cycles, feeding and food chains and adaptation.

This session is best taught in the Autumn, Spring and Summer months when the wildlife is easier to spot.

