

Organism factboxes – Trees

Beech *Fagus sylvatica*

Group: Plant, Tree

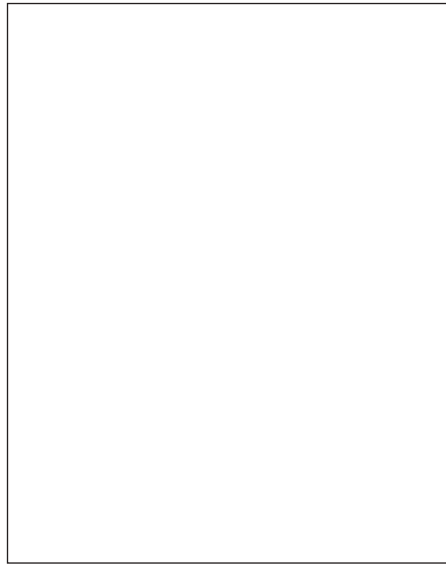
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Seeds eaten by squirrel, wood mouse, and jay. Leaves eaten by caterpillar.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: A large tree that often grows on chalky soil. The 'leaf-shaped' leaves are pale green and pleated when they emerge in spring. The flowers are pollinated by the wind. The fruits are three-sided nuts (called beech mast) inside spiky cases.



Cherry *Prunus avium*

Group: Plant, Tree

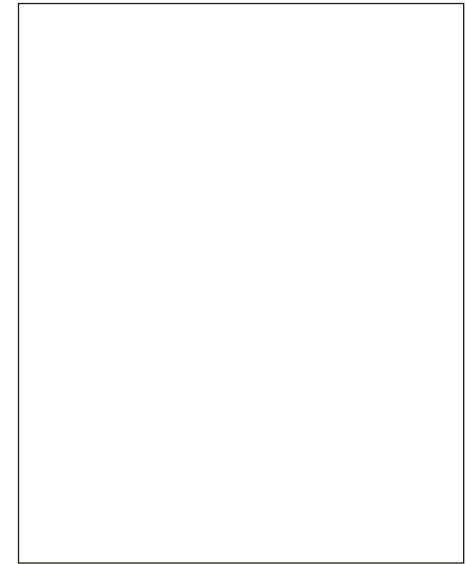
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Squirrel, wood mouse, jay, and blackbirds eat the fruit. Leaves eaten by caterpillar.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: A medium-sized tree with white blossom in spring that is pollinated by bees and other insects. The fruits are eaten by birds who spread the seeds. The bark peels in thin, horizontal strips.



Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*

Group: Plant, Tree

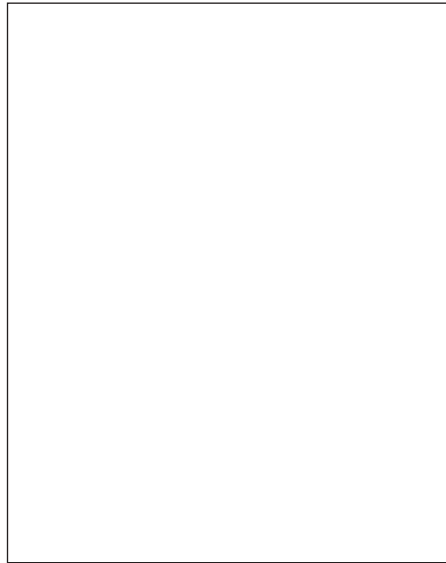
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Aphids, caterpillars and mites. Seeds eaten by wood mice and voles.

Habitat: Woodland.

Description: The leaves of this large tree are divided into 9 to 13 leaflets along a central leaf stalk. The wind-pollinated flowers appear before the leaves and are just purplish clusters of stigmas or stamens, no petals. The seeds are called 'keys'. Each has a twisted 'propellor' wing that helps it disperse away from the parent tree.



Elm *Ulmus*

Group: Plant, Tree

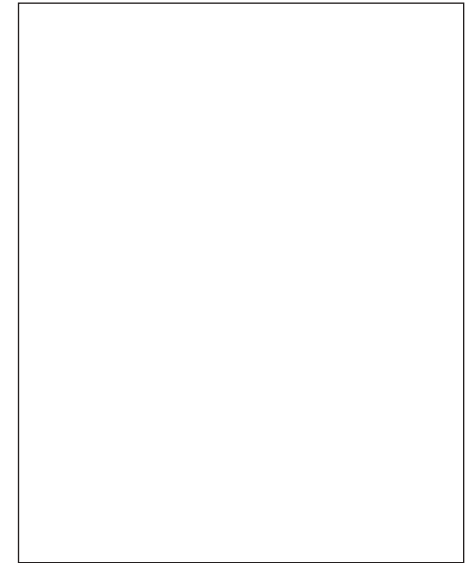
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Elm bark beetle, peppered moth caterpillars. Greenfinches eat the seeds.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: Elm is a stately tree with a spreading crown. However in Britain it rarely grows large because Dutch Elm Disease kills the plant when the trunk gets large enough for bark beetles to feed in it. The bark beetles carry the disease. The small flowers are pollinated by the wind. Two native species are English elm (*Ulmus procera*) and wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*).



Organism factboxes – Trees

Field Maple *Acer campestre*

Group: Plant, Tree

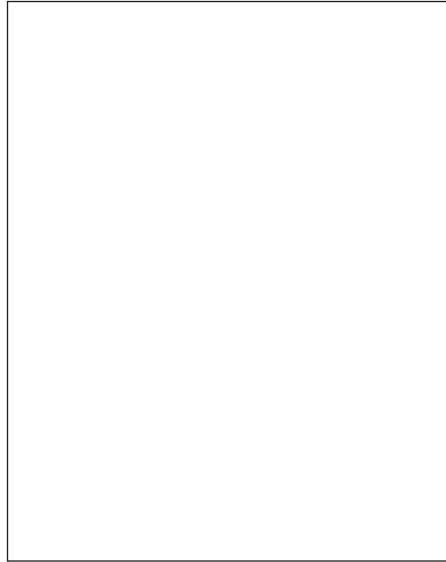
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Aphids, caterpillars of a few species of moth, including sycamore moth.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: Small tree or shrub that grows in woodland edges and hedgerows. The leaves have three or five lobes and have reddish stems. The seeds are paired and have 'helicopter' propellers.



Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*

Group: Plant, Tree

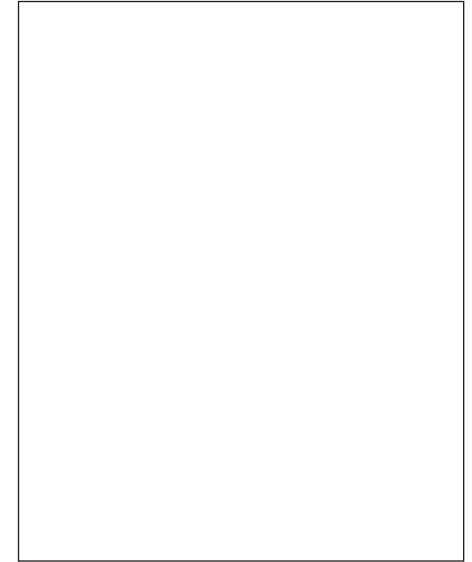
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Aphids, sycamore moth caterpillars. Tar spot fungus lives in the leaves causing black spots.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: Sycamore is a large, spreading tree with palm-shaped leaves (with five pointed lobes). The paired seeds have distinctive 'helicopter' wings. Sycamore comes from the mountains of central Europe. The trees were probably only introduced into Britain in the 15th century, but since then it has become very common.



Oak *Quercus robur*

Group: Plant, Tree

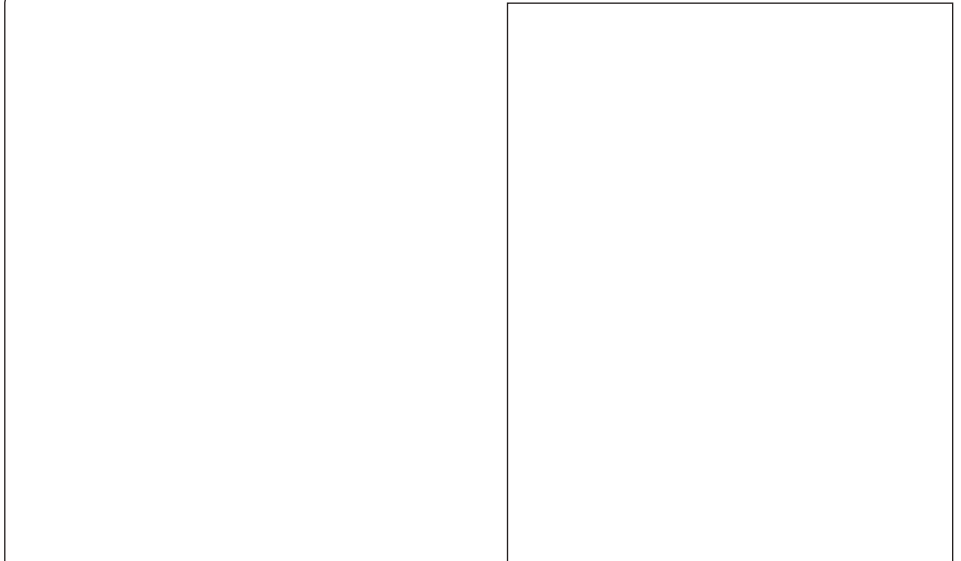
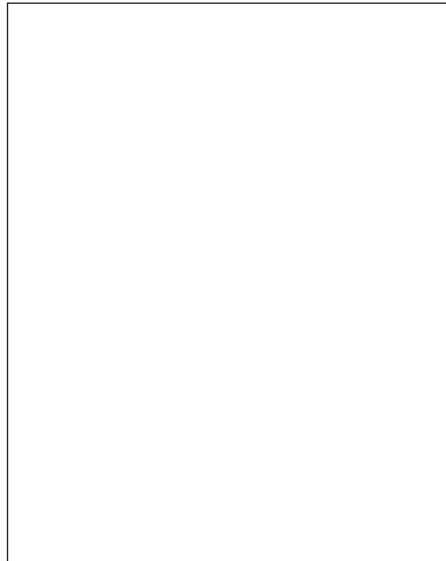
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Acorns eaten by squirrel, wood mouse and jay. Leaves eaten by caterpillar.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: Oak trees can grow to a very old age, up to 1000 years. Oak leaves are lobed. The flowers are pollinated by the wind. The fruits are acorns. Jays and squirrels love acorns, and will bury them to store over the winter. They forget where they've hidden some, so these 'ready planted' acorns can grow in spring.



Organism factboxes – Shrubs

Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*

Group: Plant, Shrub

Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Butterflies and bees feed on the flowers. Berries are eaten by blackbird, thrush, greenfinch, hedgehogs and wood mice.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: Brambles have spiny stems, and leaves with 5 or 7 leaflets. The pinkish flowers are pollinated by insects. The fruit is the blackberry. Bramble spreads using its arching stems that root when they touch the ground. The spines act like grappling hooks, helping the plant to scramble up other shrubs.

Hazel *Corylus avellana*

Group: Plant, Shrub

Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Nuts eaten by squirrel, wood mouse, jay. Leaves eaten by caterpillar.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: A shrub that has pollen-producing catkins before the leaves, and tiny female flowers that look like buds with red tufts (the stigmas). They are pollinated by the wind. The fruits are hazelnuts.

Elder *Sambucus nigra*

Group: Plant, Shrub

Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Flowers visited by flies, hoverflies and other insects. Berries eaten by blackbird, thrush.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: A medium-sized shrub. The leaves have five or seven leaflets, and have a distinctive smell. The bark is corky. The clusters of white flowers are pollinated by insects, especially hoverflies. The fruits are clusters of dark red-black elderberries. The berries are eaten by birds who spread the seeds.

Holly *Ilex aquifolium*

Group: Plant, Shrub

Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Holly leaf miner, holly blue butterfly. Berries eaten by blackbird, thrush, wood mouse.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: An evergreen shrub with dark green, prickly leaves. The small white flowers are pollinated by insects. The red berries are eaten by birds who disperse the seeds.

Organism factboxes – Herbs

Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*

Group: Plant, Herb

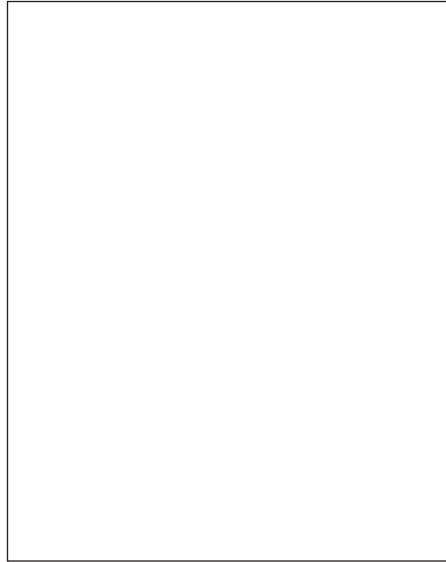
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Flowers are visited by bees. Bulbs are a favourite food of badgers.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: Bluebells grow in spring from bulbs that stay in the soil over winter. They have long thin glossy leaves, and violet-blue bell-shaped flowers. Pollinated by bees.



Buttercup *Ranunculus species*

Group: Plant, Herb

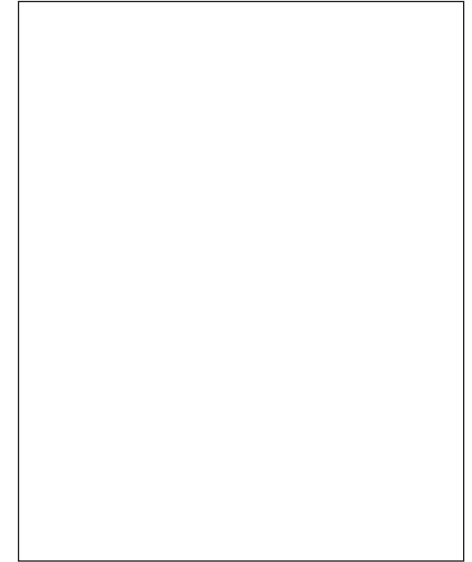
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Snails and slugs. Flowers are visited by bees, wasps and small flies.

Habitat: Grassland

Description: A meadow plant with deeply cut leaves and bright shiny yellow flowers that are pollinated by insects.



Bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*

Group: Plant, Herb

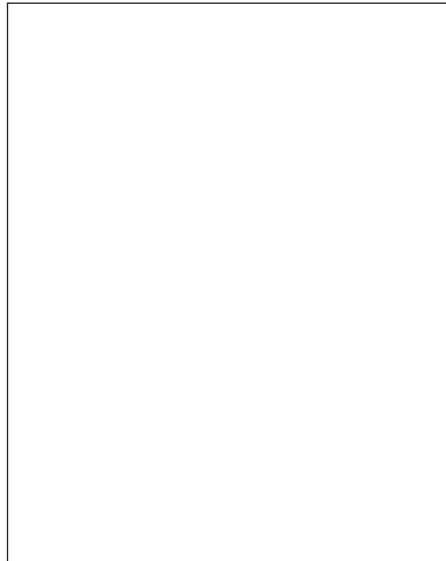
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Water snails. Bees and wasps visit the flowers.

Habitat: Pond

Description: Bogbean lives on the margins of ponds. It has spikes of pinkish white flowers with frilly petals that are pollinated by insects.



Daisy *Bellis perennis*

Group: Plant, Herb

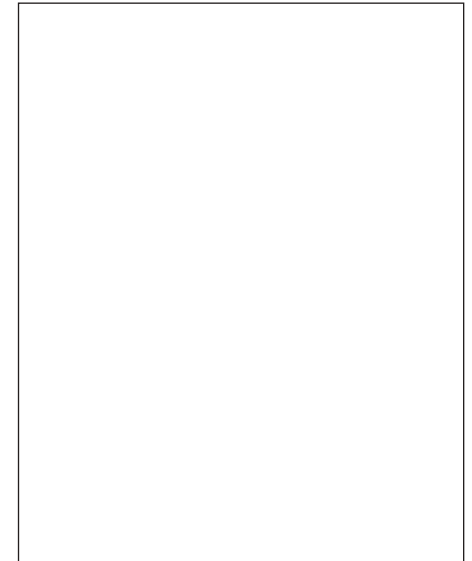
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Leaves eaten by slugs and snails. Flowers visited by flies, small bees and hoverflies.

Habitat: Grassland

Description: The familiar white flowers with yellow centres are common on lawns and other grasslands. They are pollinated by flies, small bees and other insects. The flowers grow from a rosette of dark green spoon-shaped leaves.



Organism factboxes – Herbs

Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*

Group: Plant, Herb

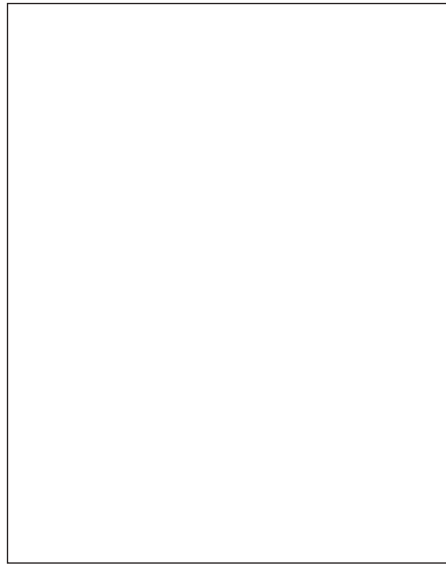
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Leaves are eaten by rabbits, slugs and snails. Hoverflies and other insects feed on nectar. Goldfinches eat the seeds.

Habitat: Grassland

Description: The leaves are long and deeply toothed, and grow in a rosette. The bright yellow flowers are pollinated by hoverflies and other insects. The seeds have little parachute hairs so they are dispersed by wind.



Fern

Group: Plant, Herb

Food chain: Producer

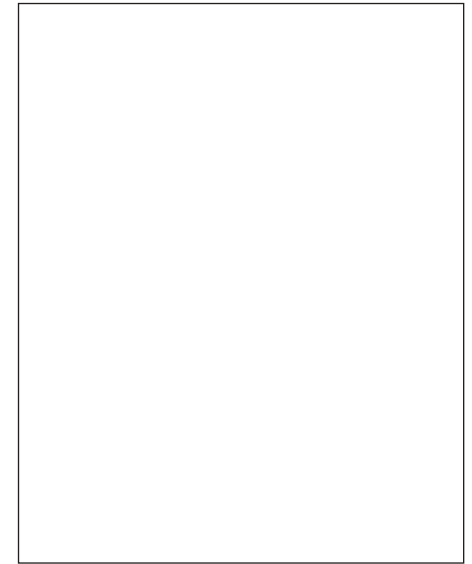
What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Slugs, snails

Habitat: Woodland

Description: Ferns usually have long leaves that are divided to give them a feathery appearance. They live in damp, shady places.

Ferns don't have flowers and seeds instead they reproduce using tiny dust-like spores.



Duckweed *Lemna minor*

Group: Plant, Herb

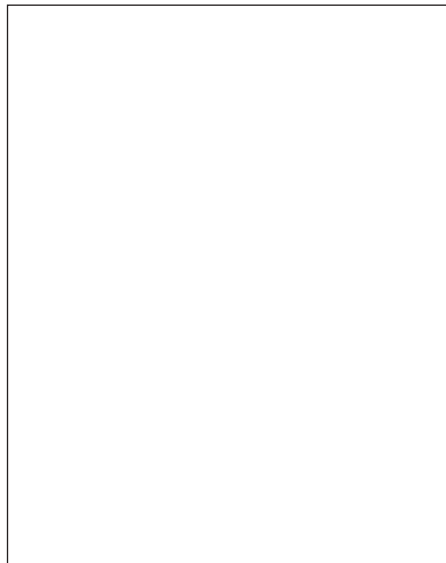
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Pond snails, ducks

Habitat: Pond

Description: Tiny round leaves that float on the surface of ponds. They are so small, the plants can stick to ducks' feet and be carried to a new pond.



Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*

Group: Plant, Herb

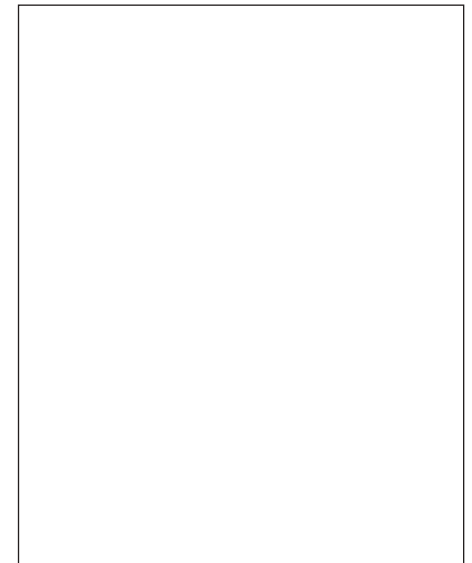
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Moth caterpillars. The flowers are visited by bees.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: A rosette of leaves at the base supports a tall spike of purple flowers. They open in June and are pollinated by bumble bees.



Organism factboxes – Herbs

Herb Bennet *Geum urbanum*

Group: Plant, Herb

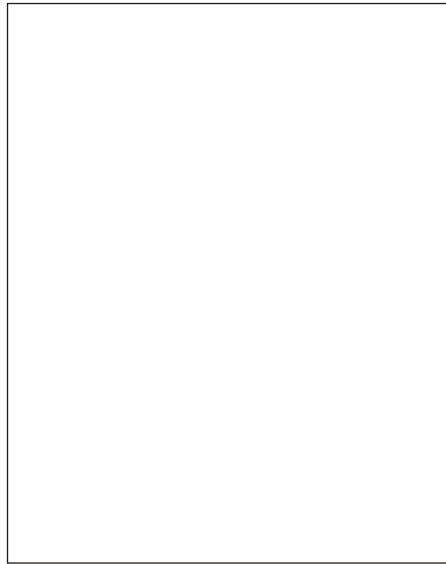
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Small bees visit for nectar and pollen.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: Also called Wood Avens, this plant grows in hedges and woodlands. It has yellow five-petalled flowers and slightly hairy three-lobed leaves. The seeds are in a cluster, and each has a long hook. The hooks cling to animals' fur, or people's clothes, so the seeds are carried to new places.



Kingcup *Caltha palustris*

Group: Plant, Herb

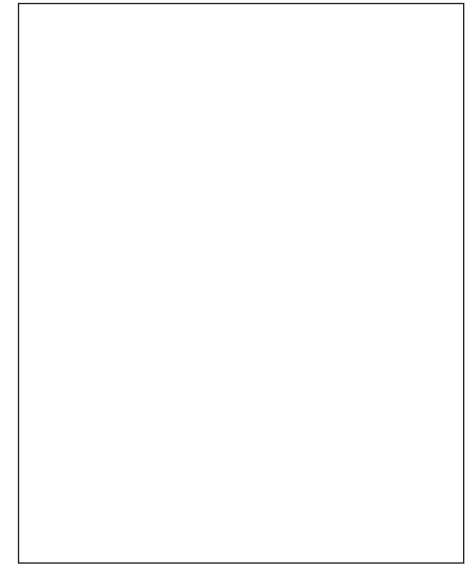
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Flies and other insects feed on nectar from the flowers.

Habitat: Pond

Description: Also called Marsh Marigold. Lives on the margins of ponds and streams. The large bright yellow flowers are pollinated by insects. The plant is poisonous.



Ivy *Hedera helix*

Group: Plant, Herb

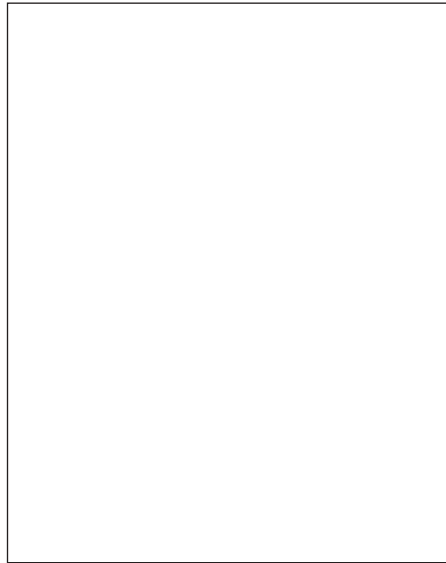
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Birds eat berries. Holly blue caterpillars eat the leaves. Flies and wasps visit the flowers for pollen and nectar.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: A climbing plant with dark green glossy leaves. It clings to walls and tree bark with small roots that sprout from the stem. Ivy flowers late in the year when most other flowers have finished, providing a late nectar supply for insects, especially flies and wasps.



Nettle *Urtica dioeca*

Group: Plant, Herb

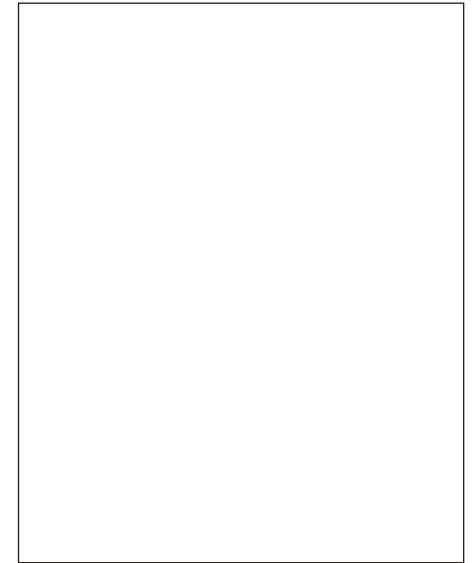
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Caterpillars of peacock, small tortoiseshell and red admiral butterfly. Nettle seeds are eaten by birds.

Habitat: Woodland

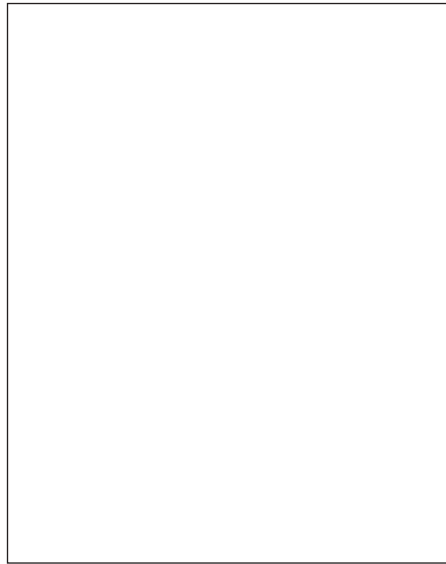
Description: The nettle's scientific name, *Urtica*, comes from the Latin word 'uro' which means to burn. It is an easy one to remember – it 'urts! Nettle stings protect the plant from grazing rabbits, cows and other large animals, but lots of caterpillars and other insects can eat them.



Organism factboxes – Herbs

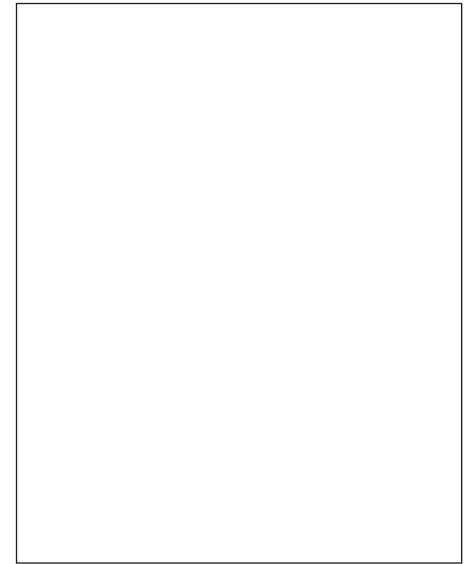
Pondweed

Group: Plant, Herb
Food chain: Producer
What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.
Eaten by: Pond snails
Habitat: Pond
Description: A general term for plants that live underwater.



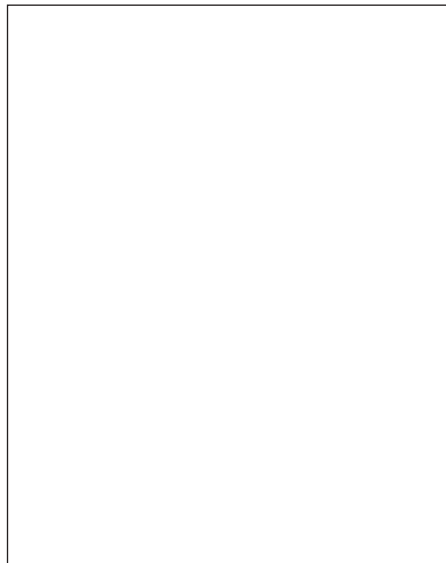
Reed

Group: Plant, Herb
Food chain: Producer
What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.
Eaten by: Slugs, snails, pond snails.
Habitat: Pond
Description: Reeds are grass-like plants that grow in wet places. The flowers are pollinated by the wind.



Primrose *Primula vulgaris*

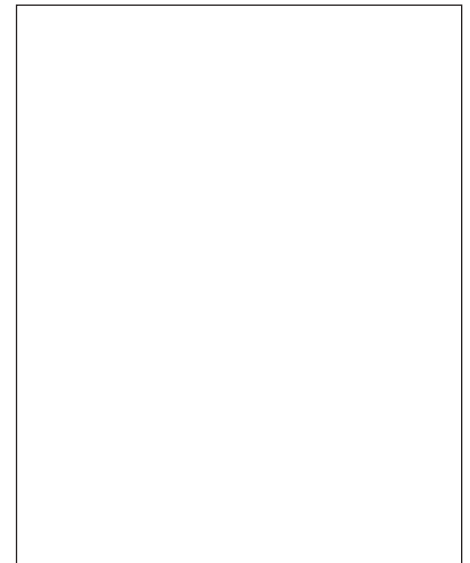
Group: Plant, Herb
Food chain: Producer
What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.
Eaten by: Slugs, snails, caterpillars. Butterflies and bees feed on the nectar in the flowers.
Habitat: Woodland
Description: Primrose has yellow flowers in spring, that grow from a clump of wrinkled oval leaves.



Rosebay Willowherb

Chamerion angustifolium

Group: Plant, Herb
Food chain: Producer
What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.
Eaten by: Slugs, snails, caterpillars of the elephant hawk moth.
Habitat: Woodland
Description: The tall pink spikes of flowers are pollinated by insects. It produces masses of fluffy white seeds that are spread by the wind. Rosebay Willowherb often grows on burnt or disturbed patches of ground.



Organism factboxes – Herbs

Rush

Group: Plant, Herb

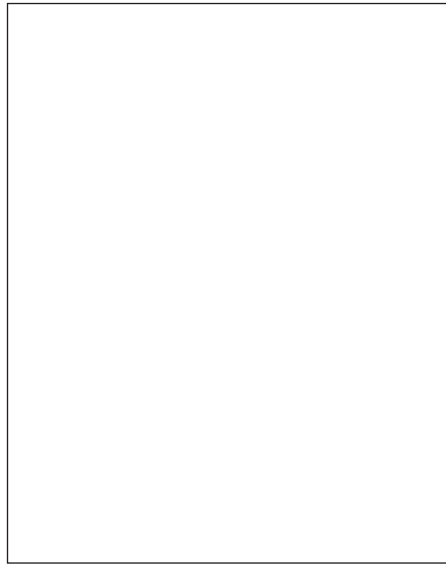
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Slugs, snails, pond snails.

Habitat: Pond

Description: Rushes are grass-like plants that grow in wet places. The stems have a round cross-section. The flowers are pollinated by the wind.



Speedwell *Veronica species*

Group: Plant, Herb

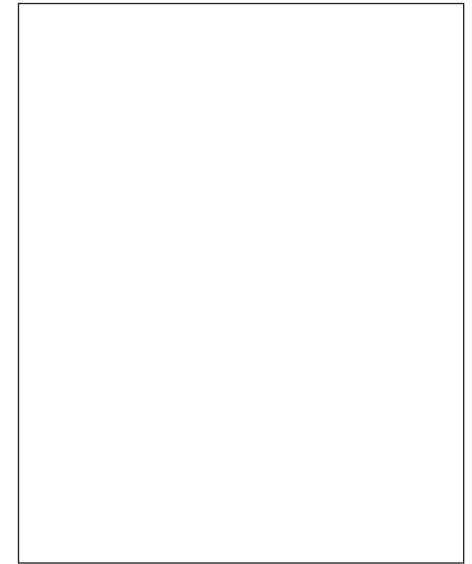
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Slugs and snails. Bees, flies and other insects visit the flowers for nectar.

Habitat: Grassland

Description: Speedwell has pretty lilac blue, four-petaled flowers. There are lots of different species. Common Field Speedwell (*Veronica persica*) spreads through grassland on thin scrambling stems. The leaves are toothed and hairy. The flowers are pollinated by insects.



Sedge

Group: Plant, Herb

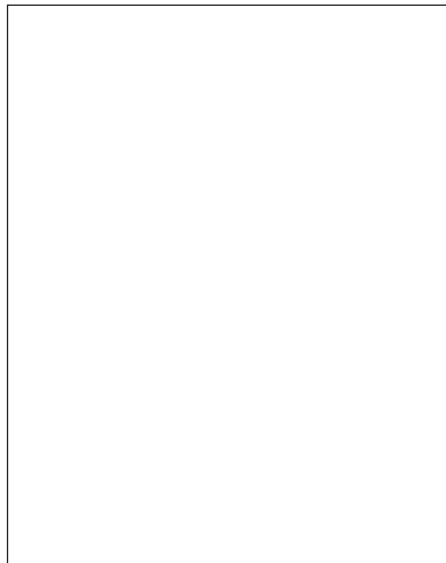
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Slugs, snails, pond snails.

Habitat: Pond

Description: Sedges are grass-like plants that live in damp places. The stems usually have a triangular cross section. The flowers are pollinated by the wind.



Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum*

Group: Plant, Herb

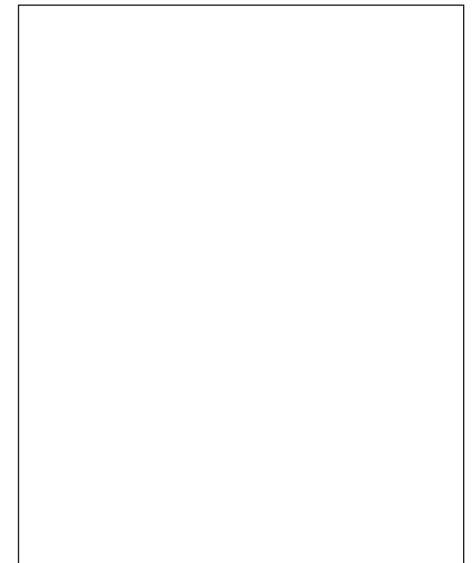
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Bees and butterflies take nectar from the flowers. Goldfinches eat the seeds.

Habitat: Woodland; Grassland

Description: Teasel grows in grasslands, hedgerows and woodland edges. It is a tall prickly plant with dramatic spiky flowerheads. The flowers are lilac-pink and offer nectar to butterflies and bees.
The plant takes two years to grow. In its first year it lives as a flat rosette of spiky leaves, then in the second year it grows tall and flowers.



Organism factboxes – Herbs

Water Cress

Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum

Group: Plant, Herb

Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Water snails, water voles, flowers visited by butterflies.

Habitat: Pond

Description: A water plant that prefers clear, flowing water. It has dark green leaves with rounded leaflets and clusters of white flowers. These are pollinated by insects.



Water Mint *Mentha aquatica*

Group: Plant, Herb

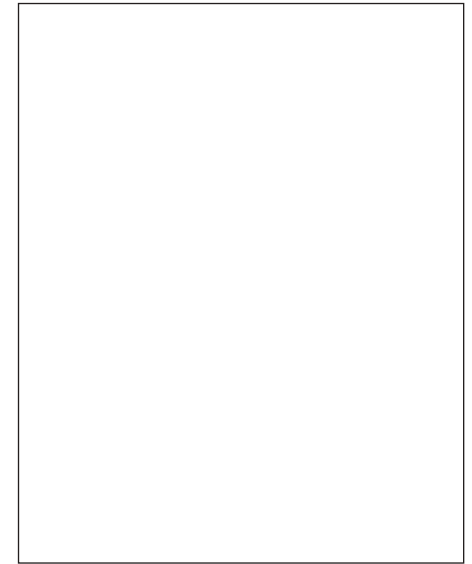
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Water snails. Flowers visited by butterflies.

Habitat: Pond

Description: A water plant with leaves that smell minty. The round heads of pink flowers are pollinated by insects, especially butterflies.



Water Crowfoot *Ranunculus aquatilis*

Group: Plant, Herb

Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Water snails. Flowers are visited by insects, especially beetles.

Habitat: Pond

Description: A plant of ponds and streams. Leaves are floating or submerged. The flowers are white with a yellow centre. They are pollinated by insects.



Water Plantain

Alisma plantago-aquatica

Group: Plant, Herb

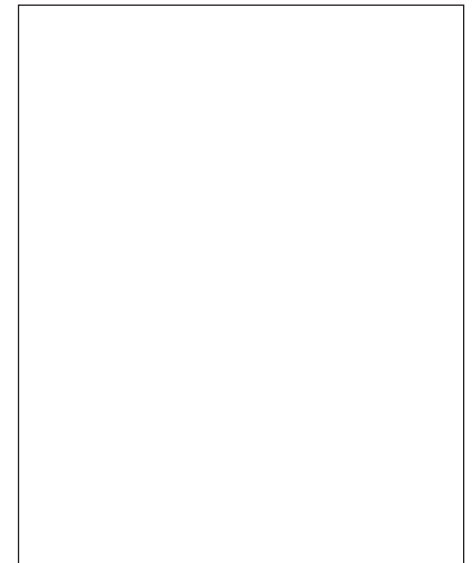
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Water snails. Small flies visit the flowers.

Habitat: Pond

Description: Water Plantain grows on the margins of ponds. It has triangular spikes of pinkish white flowers on long stalks. They are pollinated by insects.



Organism factboxes – Herbs

Waterlily *Nymphaea alba*

Group: Plant, Herb

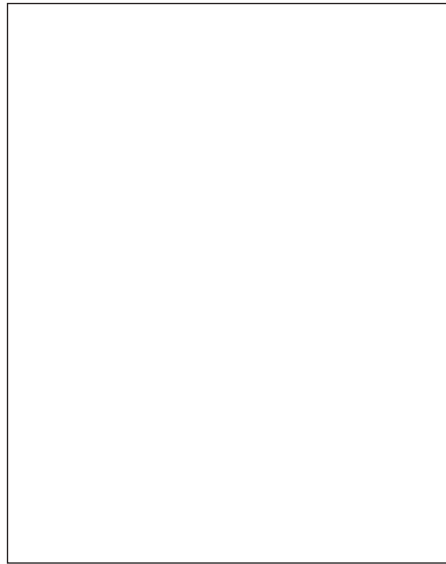
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Pond snails. Beetles visit the flowers.

Habitat: Pond

Description: Waterlilies live in ponds or slow-flowing streams. They have round leaves that float on the surface. The white waterlily (*Nymphaea alba*) is pollinated by beetles.



Wild Garlic *Allium ursinum*

Group: Plant, Herb

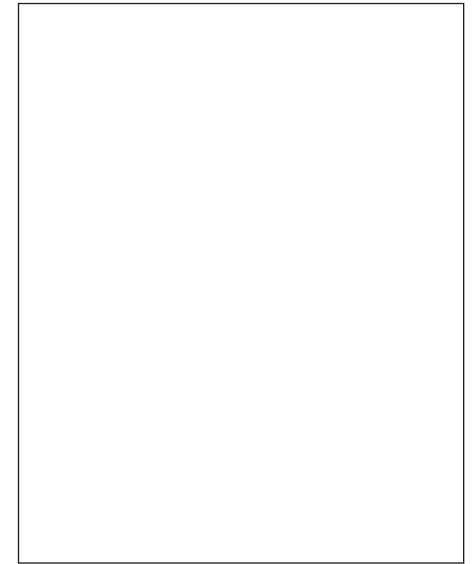
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: The flowers are visited by bees and flies.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: Wild garlic, or ramsons, grows in spring from a bulb. The clusters of white, star-shaped flowers smell of garlic! The flowers are pollinated by insects.



White Dead Nettle *Lamium album*

Group: Plant, Herb

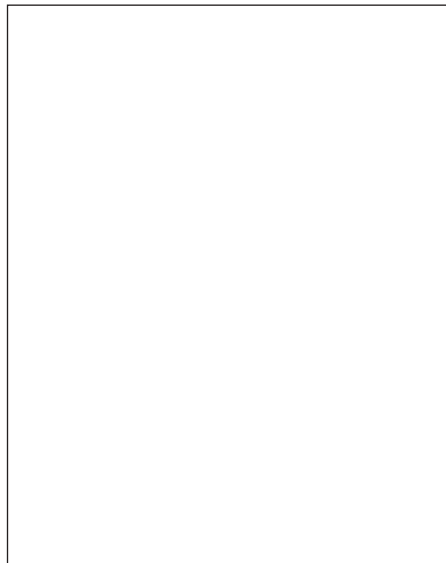
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Slugs and snails. Bees visit the flowers for pollen and nectar.

Habitat: Woodland; Grassland

Description: The nettle-shaped leaves do not sting. The tube-like flowers are pollinated by bumble bees and mason bees. Smaller insects are often not heavy enough to open the flowers.



Yellow Flag *Iris pseudacorus*

Group: Plant, Herb

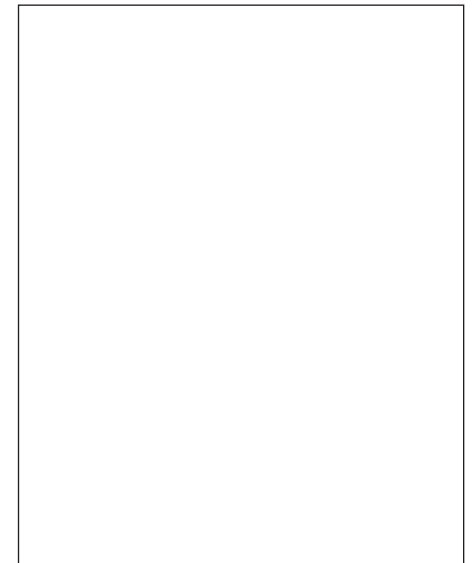
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Slugs, snails, pond snails. Bees visit the flowers for nectar.

Habitat: Pond

Description: Yellow flag grows on the edges of ponds and streams. It has long sword-like leaves and bright yellow flowers.



Organism factboxes – Grasses

Grass

Group: Plant, Herb

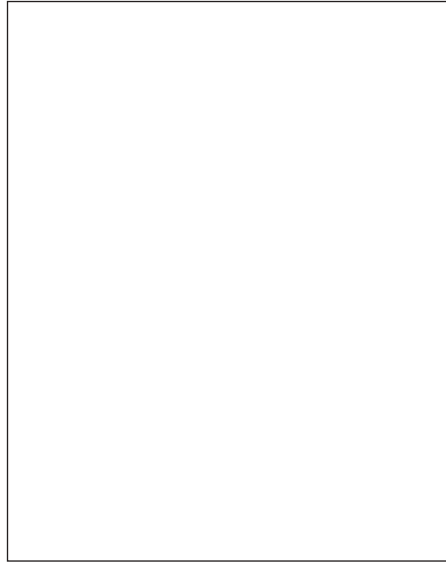
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Geese, rabbits, caterpillars, including those of meadow brown butterflies.

Habitat: Grassland

Description: Grasses have long thin leaves. They can grow in clumps or spread across the ground. Grass flowers are in groups on top of a long stalk. Individual flowers are tiny and have no petals. They are pollinated by the wind. They produce lots of pollen, which gives some people hay fever. There are lots of different species.



Foxtail grass *Alopecurus pratensis*

Group: Plant, Herb

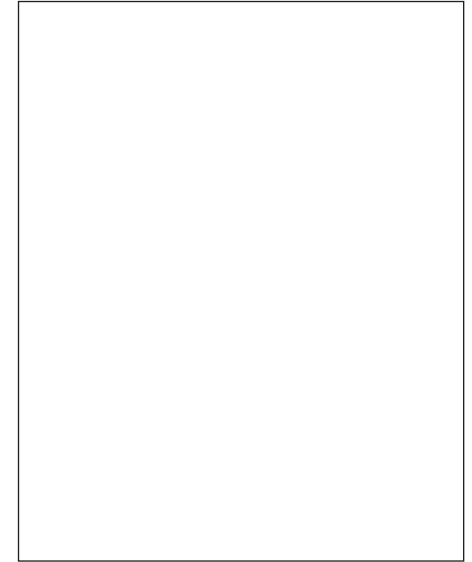
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Geese, rabbits, caterpillars, including those of meadow brown butterflies and blue butterflies.

Habitat: Grassland

Description: The flower spikes are tightly packed on the stalk and look a bit like a fox's tail.



Cocksfoot Grass *Dactylis glomerata*

Group: Plant, Herb

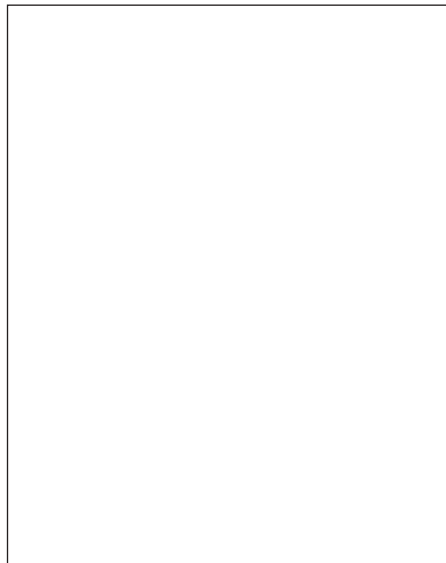
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Geese, rabbits, caterpillars, including those of meadow brown butterflies and speckled wood butterflies.

Habitat: Grassland

Description: A grass with bluish-green leaves. The flower spike is pyramidal and branched often into three a little like a chicken's foot.



Rye Grass *Lolium perenne*

Group: Plant, Herb

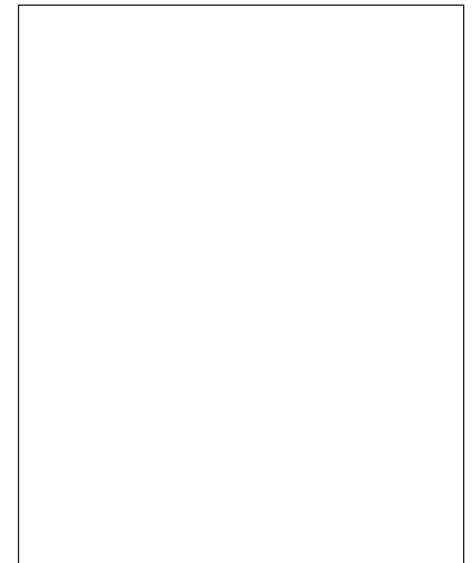
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Geese, rabbits, caterpillars, including those of meadow brown butterflies and blue butterflies.

Habitat: Grassland

Description: Flower spikes are tall and straight, with diamond-shaped spikelets (the groups of tiny flowers) alternating up the stalk. The leaves are green and hairless.



Organism factboxes – Grasses

Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*

Group: Plant, Herb

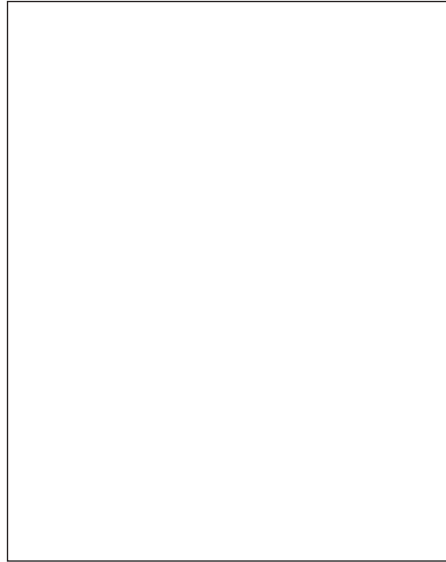
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Geese, rabbits, caterpillars, including those of meadow brown butterflies and blue butterflies.

Habitat: Grassland

Description: A grass with grey-green soft hairy leaves. The flower spikes are loose and often have a purplish tinge. When a mass of this grass is flowering, it can make the field look as if there is a layer of fog over it.



Organism factboxes – Algae

Alga

Group: Plant, Alga

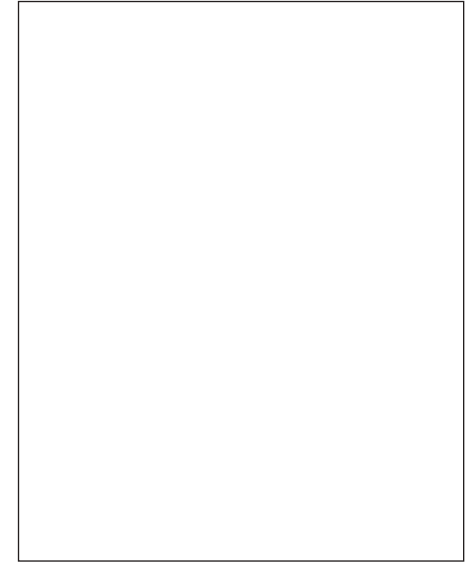
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Eaten by tadpoles and other small pond animals.

Habitat: Pond

Description: Algae (plural of alga) are usually microscopic plants. They don't have roots, shoots, leaves and flowers like normal plants, but they can photosynthesize. Algae can live everywhere there is water and sunlight. The 'green slime' in ponds is algae. There are also powdery algae that live on tree bark.



Lichen

Group: Plant and Fungus

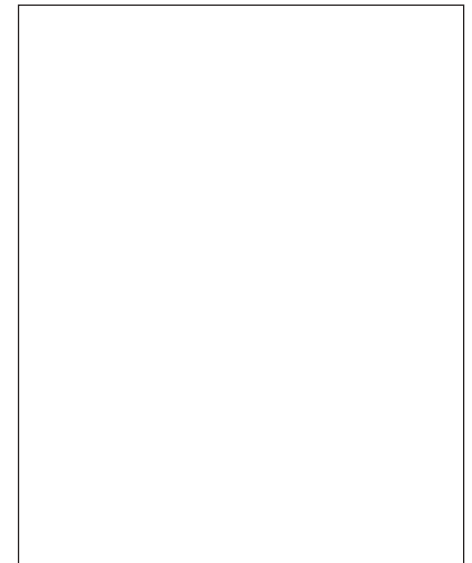
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Makes its own food from carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight energy.

Eaten by: Slugs and some other invertebrates graze on lichens.

Habitat: Woodland

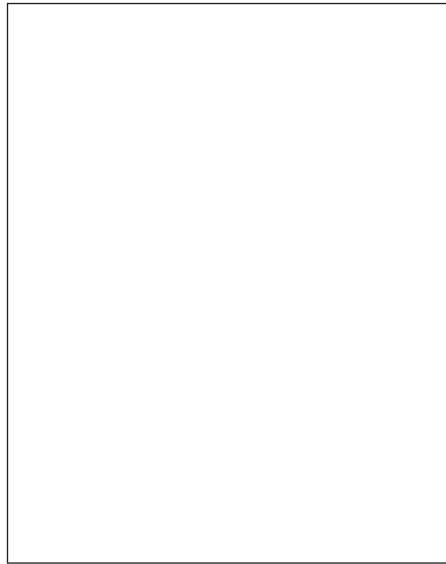
Description: Lichens are a partnership between fungi and algae. The fungus makes a mass of tangled threads. Lodged within these are algal cells (a cell is the basic unit of a living organism, often a box- or sphere-shape). The algae makes sugars and other food using the energy from the sun. Some of this food is used by the fungus. There are hundreds of types of lichen.



Organism factboxes – Fungi

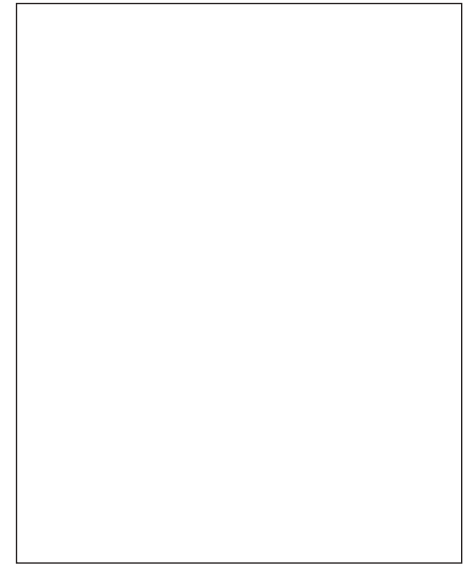
Bracket Fungus

Group: Fungus
Food chain: Decomposer
What it eats: Decaying wood
Eaten by: Slugs, fungus gnats
Habitat: Woodland; Dead Wood
Description: Bracket fungi grow out sideways from tree trunks and branches. They have gills or pores underneath the bracket.



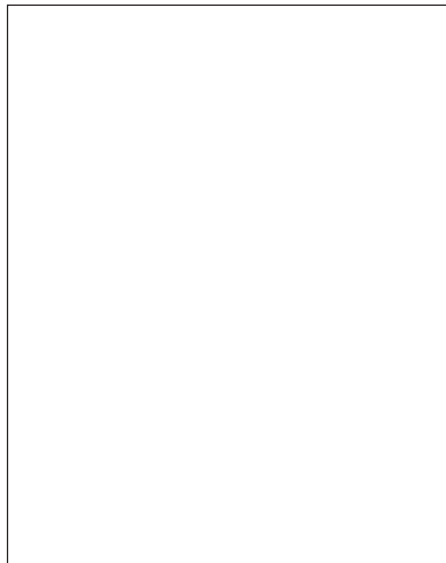
Fly Agaric *Amanita muscaria*

Group: Fungus
Food chain: Decomposer
What it eats: Decaying wood and other dead plant matter. Also forms a relationship with living tree roots, called a 'mycorrhiza'.
Eaten by: Slugs, squirrels, fungus gnats
Habitat: Woodland
Description: The classic 'toadstool' with a red cap with white spots. It often grows near birch trees. It lives on the tree's roots, but doesn't harm the tree. Instead, it helps it to find nutrients in the soil.



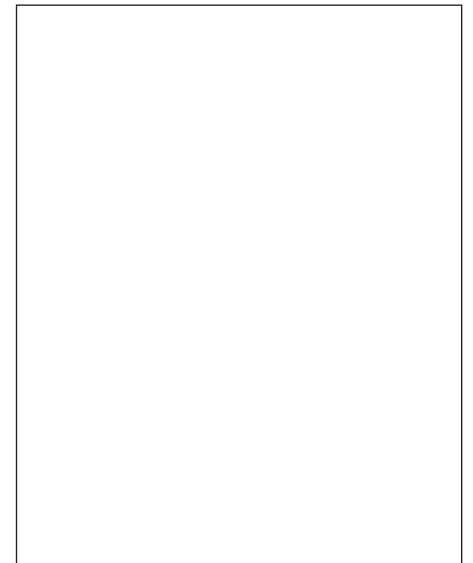
Field Mushroom *Agaricus campestris*

Group: Fungus
Food chain: Decomposer
What it eats: Decaying dead plant matter.
Eaten by: Slugs, snails, fungus gnats
Habitat: Grassland
Description: A white mushroom with pink or brown gills. It is very similar to the cultivated mushroom and is edible. However, there are similar-looking species that are poisonous, so you should never eat mushrooms unless you have identified them properly.



Honey Fungus *Armillaria mellea*

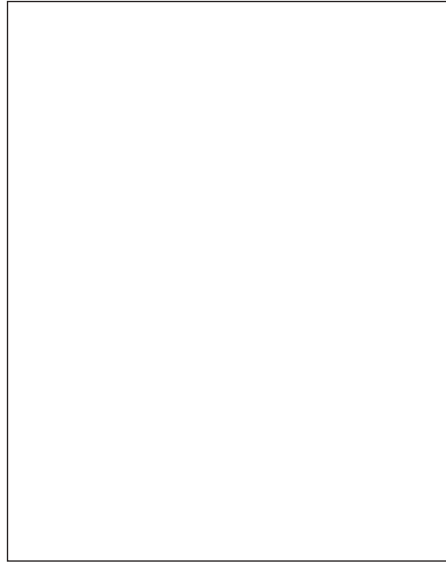
Group: Fungus
Food chain: Decomposer
What it eats: Decaying wood and other dead plant matter.
Eaten by: Slugs, squirrels, fungus gnats
Habitat: Woodland; Dead Wood
Description: Grows in groups sprouting from wood. Caps are various shades of brown. The fungus spreads using long black cords, like bootlaces. You might find these under the bark of infected trees. This fungus can kill trees.



Organism factboxes – Fungi

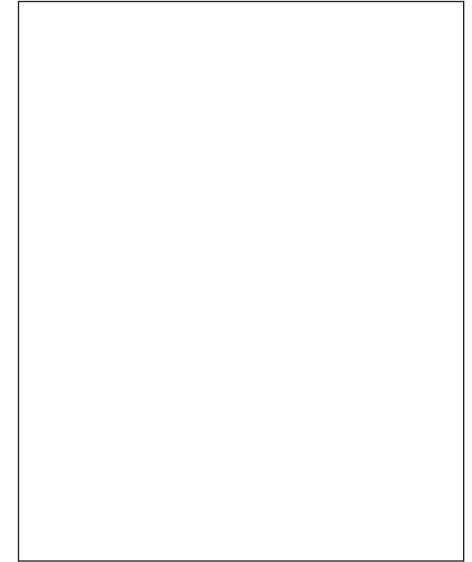
Jelly Fungus *Tremella mesenterica*

Group: Fungus
Food chain: Decomposer
What it eats: Decaying wood and other dead plant matter.
Eaten by: Slugs
Habitat: Woodland
Description: Jelly fungus is also known as Witch's Butter or Yellow Brain Fungus. When fresh it looks and feels like jelly.



Sulphur Tuft *Hypholoma fasciculare*

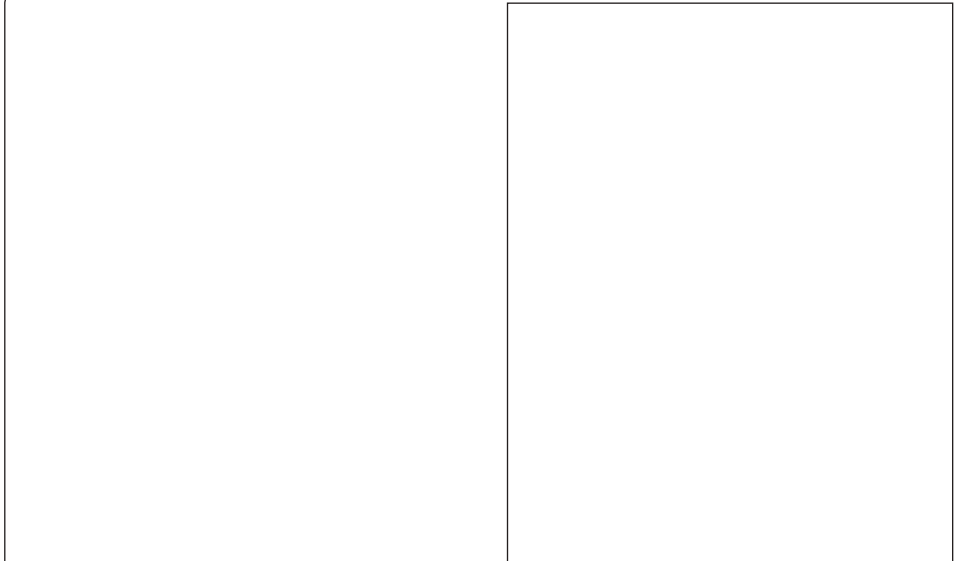
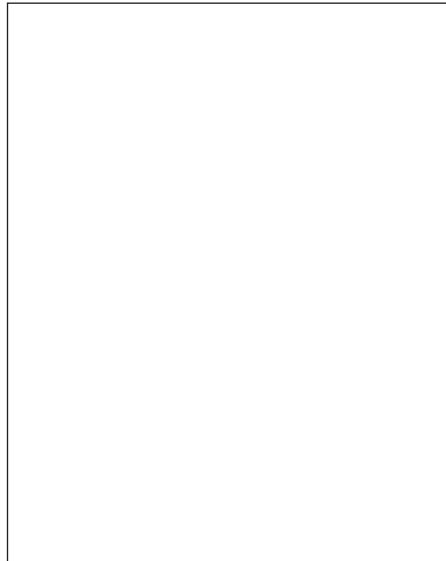
Group: Fungus
Food chain: Decomposer
What it eats: Decaying wood and other dead plant matter.
Eaten by: Fungus gnats
Habitat: Woodland; Dead Wood
Description: Bright sulphur-yellow mushrooms that grow in clumps on rotting wood.



Oyster Mushroom

Pleurotus ostreatus

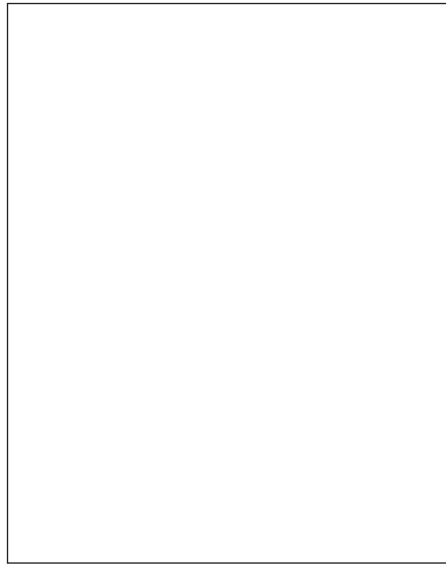
Group: Fungus
Food chain: Decomposer
What it eats: Decaying wood and other dead plant matter,
Eaten by: Slug, squirrel, fungus gnat
Habitat: Woodland; Dead Wood
Description: A type of bracket fungus that grows out from dead tree stumps. The top of the cap is blue-grey to grey-brown and the gills underneath are white. Not poisonous.



Organism factboxes – Mammals

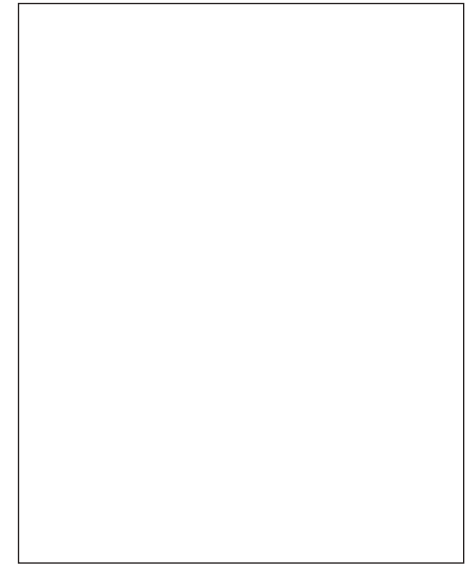
Badger *Meles meles*

Group: Animal, Mammal
Food chain: Omnivore
What it eats: Slugs, snails, beetles, earthworms, hedgehogs, wood mouse, blackberries, crab apples, bluebell bulbs.
Eaten by:
Habitat: Woodland
Description: A large animal with a grey body and black and white striped face. Badgers live in underground homes called setts. They eat a wide variety of food, including invertebrates, berries and small animals.



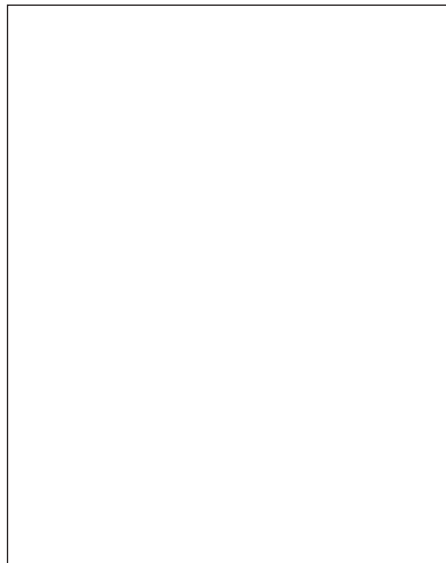
Deer

Group: Animal, Mammal
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Grass and small plants, trees and shrubs.
Eaten by: Young deer are sometimes eaten by foxes.
Habitat: Woodland
Description: Deer have hooved feet and can run fast. Most deer have antlers. The largest British land mammal is the red deer. Fallow deer are chestnut to dark brown, and usually have white spots. The roe deer is mid-brown with a white rump. Muntjac deer – are small, not much bigger than a fox, and have small unbranched antlers.



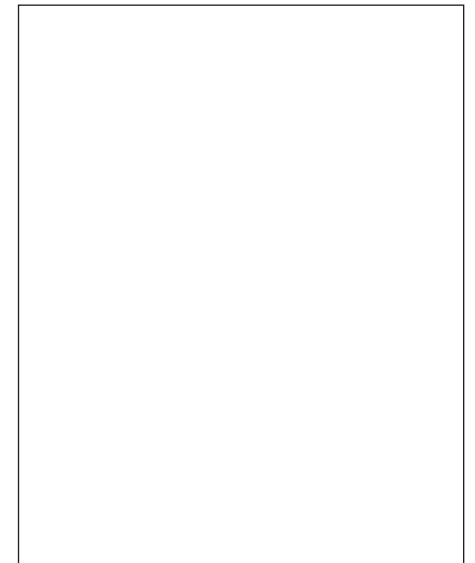
Bat

Group: Animal, Mammal
Food chain: Carnivore
What it eats: Night-flying insects, moths.
Eaten by: Birds of prey sometimes catch bats in the early evening.
Habitat: Woodland
Description: All British bats feed on insects. None drink blood! They come out at dusk and hunt during the night. They 'see' with sounds, using echolocation. Their ears are large to pick up the smallest noises. There are 16 species in Britain. Many are very rare.



Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

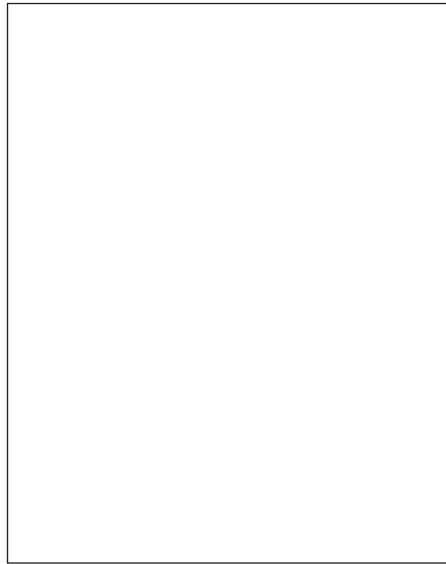
Group: Animal, Mammal
Food chain: Carnivore
What it eats: Slugs, snails, beetles, earthworms, hedgehogs, wood mouse, blackberries, crab apples, pigeon, baby birds.
Eaten by:
Habitat: Woodland; Grassland
Description: A dog-like animal with reddish-brown fur and a white tip to the tail. It is common in towns and cities where it raids dustbins. Those living in the country are much more shy. Foxes will eat almost anything they can find, including carrion (animals that are already dead). They will also hunt for mice and small birds.



Organism factboxes – Mammals

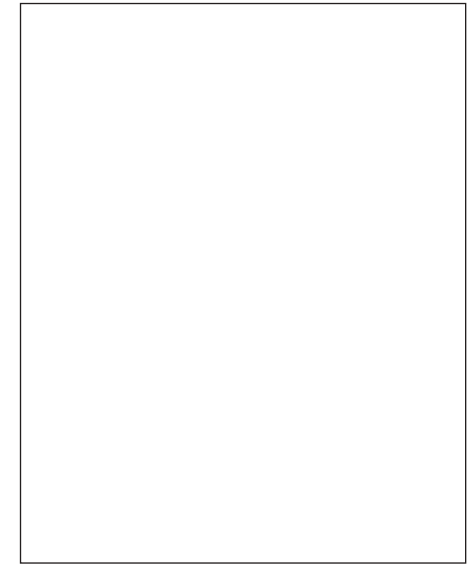
Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*

Group: Animal, Mammal
Food chain: Omnivore
What it eats: Slugs, snails, acorns, crab apples, beetles, earwigs, earthworms.
Eaten by: Badger, fox
Habitat: Woodland
Description: A familiar mammal that is covered in spines. If it is threatened, it rolls into a ball. It usually comes out at night and can be a very noisy feeder, snuffling loudly as it hunts for slugs and other creatures in the leaf litter.



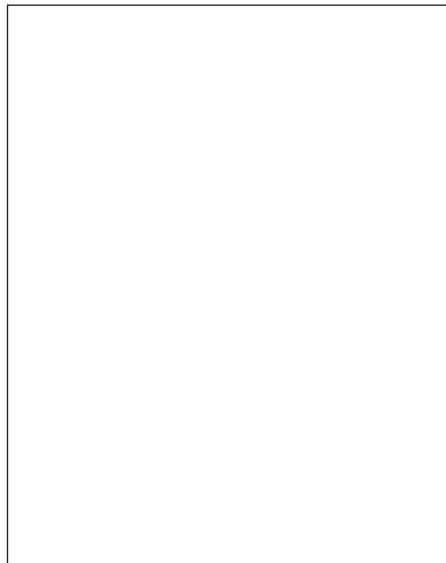
Shrew

Group: Animal, Mammal
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Insects and other 'creepy crawlies'.
Eaten by: Kestrel, sparrowhawk, owl, fox
Habitat: Grassland
Description: A small mouse-like animal with a long nose. It eats Insects and other 'creepy crawlies'.



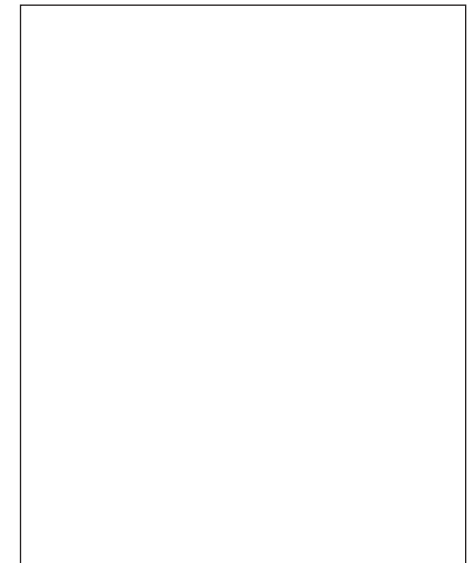
Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Group: Animal, Mammal
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Grass and herbs.
Eaten by: Fox, badger, kestrel
Habitat: Grassland
Description: Rabbits are a common sight on natural grasslands. They have smaller ears than the similar-looking hares.



Stoat *Mustela erminea*

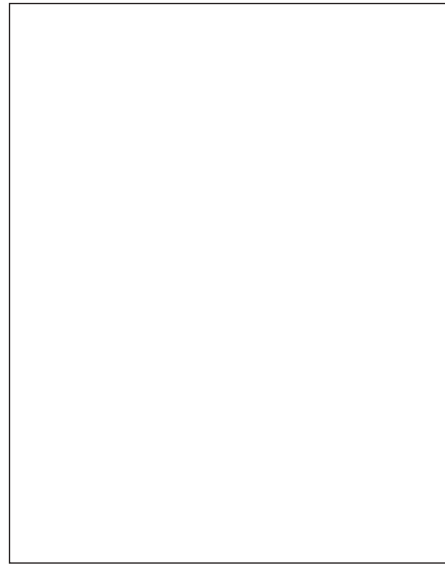
Group: Animal, Mammal
Food chain: Carnivore
What it eats: Small mammals: mice, rats, voles, shrews, rabbit, birds' eggs and nestlings.
Eaten by: Fox, tawny owl
Habitat: Woodland; Grassland
Description: A long thin animal with chestnut brown fur on its upper body, a white belly and a black tip to the tail. Larger than the weasel.



Organism factboxes – Mammals

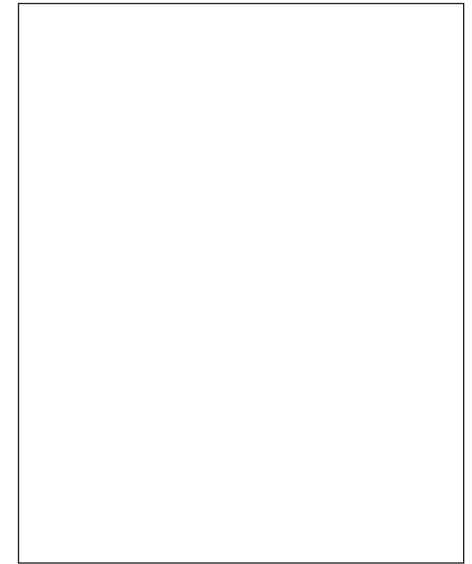
Vole *Microtus agrestis*

Group: Animal, Mammal
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Grass and other plants.
Eaten by: Owl, stoat, weasel.
Habitat: Grassland
Description: Small mouse-like animal with short tail and grey-brown fur. It eats leaves and other vegetation.



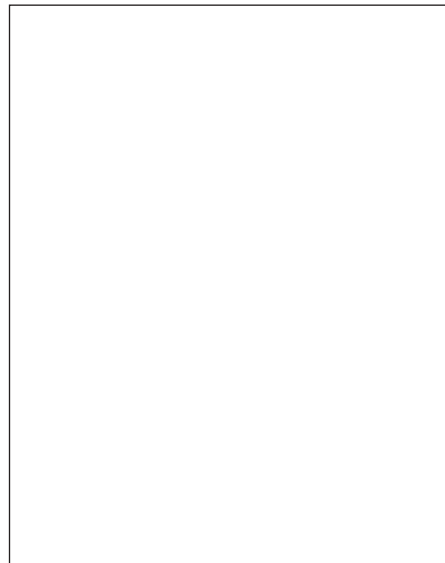
Weasel *Mustela nivalis*

Group: Animal, Mammal
Food chain: Carnivore
What it eats: Small mammals: mice, rats, voles, shrews, rabbit, birds' eggs and nestlings.
Eaten by: Sparrowhawk, tawny owl
Habitat: Woodland; Grassland
Description: A long thin animal with chestnut brown fur on its upper body, a white belly. Smaller than the stoat, with no black tip to the tail.



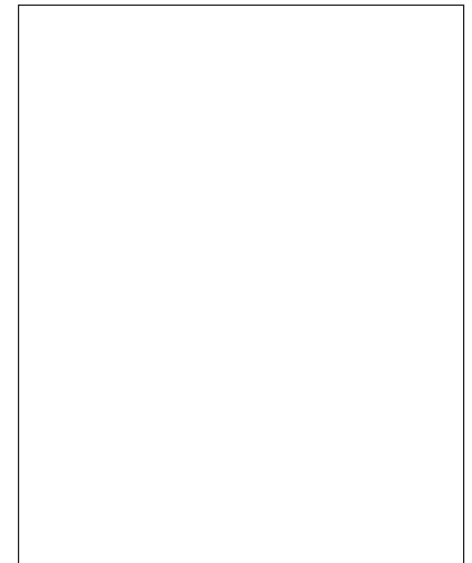
Water Vole *Arvicola terrestris*

Group: Animal, Mammal
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Water and waterside plants including grasses, sedges and rushes.
Eaten by: Heron, tawny owl, stoat, weasel, grass snake.
Habitat: Pond
Description: Although sometimes called the water rat, it looks very different from a rat. Its body is rounded and the fur is a rich brown. Its ears are small and almost hidden by fur. It has a blunt face and short furry tail. Water voles are a protected species, so their habitats must not be disturbed.



Wood Mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus*

Group: Animal, Mammal
Food chain: Omnivore
What it eats: Seeds, berries, clover and dandelion leaves. Also eats grubs, worms, spiders and slugs.
Eaten by: Tawny owl, fox, stoat, weasel
Habitat: Woodland; Grassland
Description: Despite its name, it prefers grasslands and hedgerows to woods. It has a long tail that is almost the same length as its body. It mainly eats plants, but will also eat worms and other invertebrates.



Organism factboxes – Reptiles

Grass Snake *Natrix natrix*

Group: Animal, Reptile

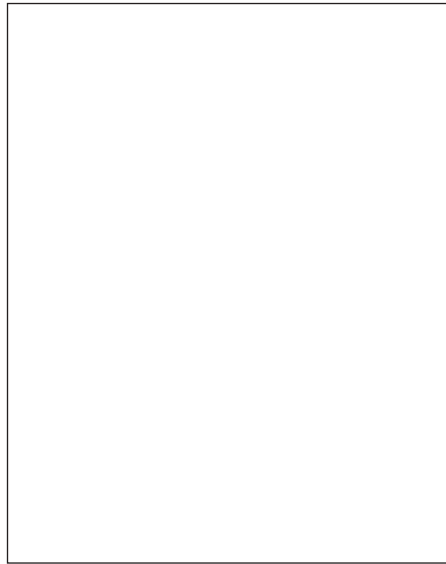
Food chain: Carnivore

What it eats: Frogs, newts, other small animals.

Eaten by:

Habitat: Pond; Grassland

Description: Britain's biggest snake, it can grow to over a metre long. Non-venomous and rarely bites (though it may hiss and strike). Grey-green colour with a distinct yellow and black collar round the neck, black bars down the side and sometimes two rows of black marks down the back. Swims well and often hunts in ponds.



Organism factboxes – Fish

Stickleback *Gasterosteus aculeatus*

Group: Animal, Fish

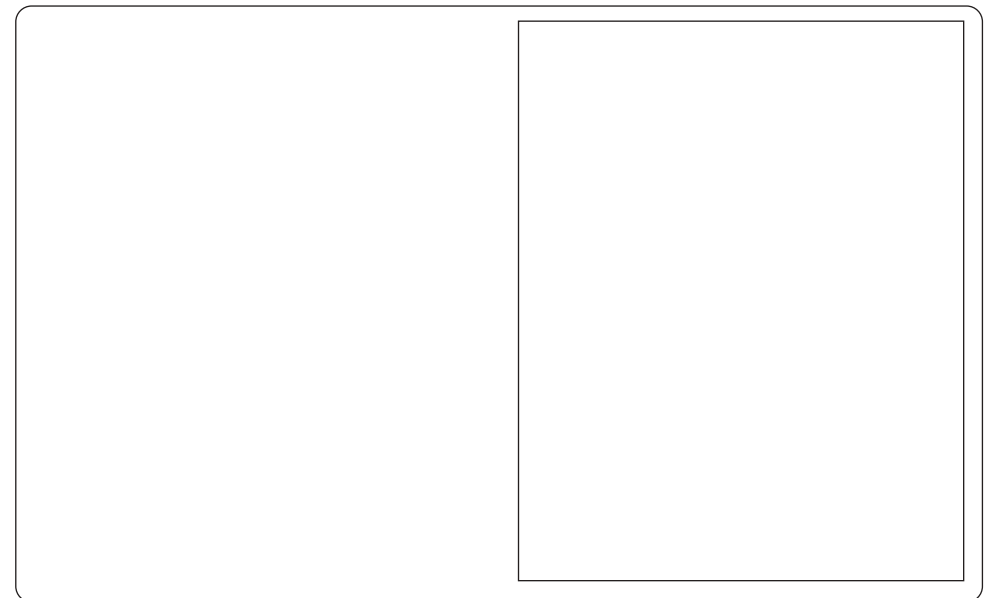
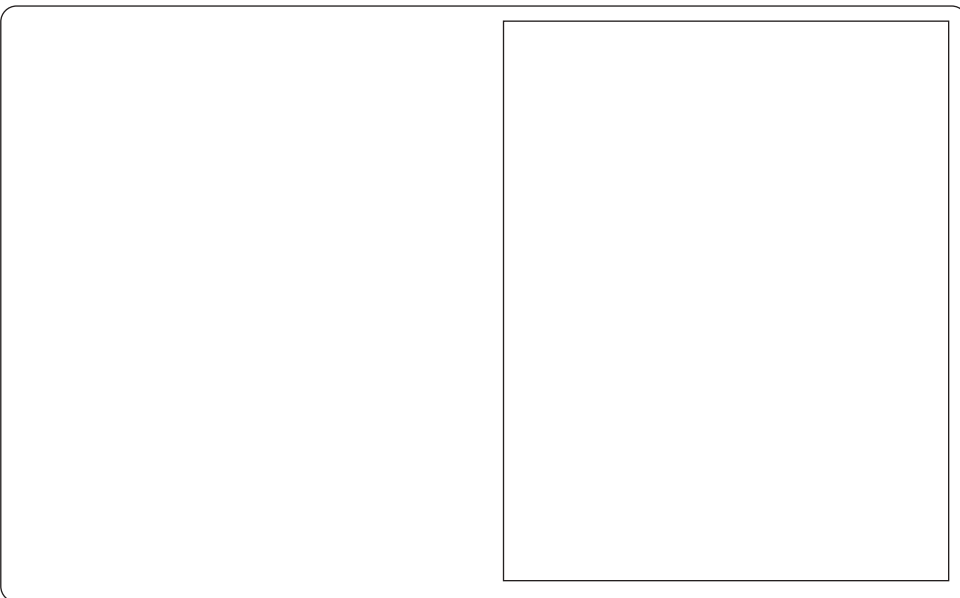
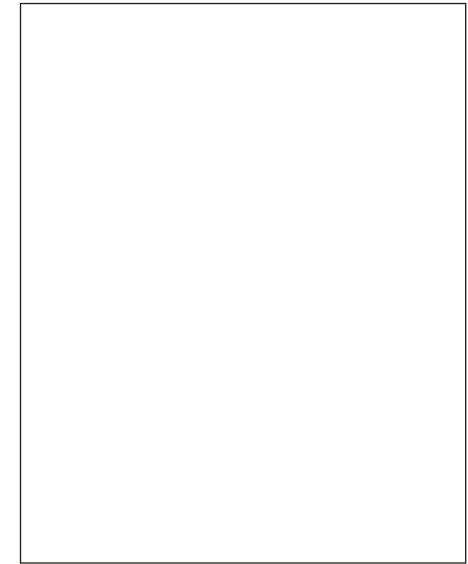
Food chain: Carnivore

What it eats: Aquatic invertebrates, tadpoles.

Eaten by: Heron, great diving beetle, dragonfly larvae

Habitat: Pond

Description: The three-spined stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) is the most common type. It is an aggressive, carnivorous little fish. Males become brightly coloured in the breeding season.



Organism factboxes – Birds

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Group: Animal, Bird

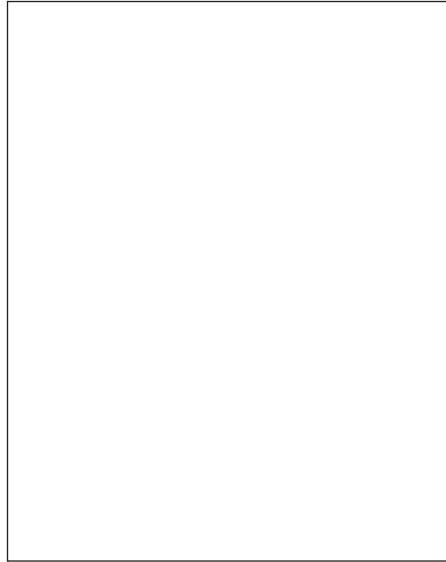
Food chain: Omnivore

What it eats: Berries, (e.g. hawthorn, elder and ivy) seeds, earthworms and other invertebrates.

Eaten by: Sparrowhawk. Magpies eat eggs and chicks

Habitat: Woodland; Grassland

Description: The male is all black, with yellow bill. The female is brown. Blackbirds have a beautiful song, and are one of the first birds to start the dawn chorus. Blackbirds use their long pointed beak to search for earthworms and other 'creepy crawlies' in the grass and leaf litter.



Bluetit *Parus caeruleus*

Group: Animal, Bird

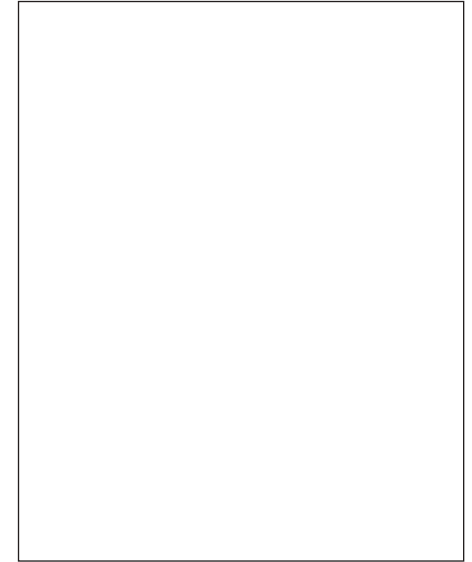
Food chain: Omnivore

What it eats: Caterpillars, aphids, seeds, nuts.

Eaten by: Sparrowhawk, babies eaten by woodpeckers.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: A very pretty bird with an olive green back, yellow belly, and white head with a black eye-stripe and blue cap. Bluetits are very agile, and will often hang upside down to feed.



Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Group: Animal, Bird

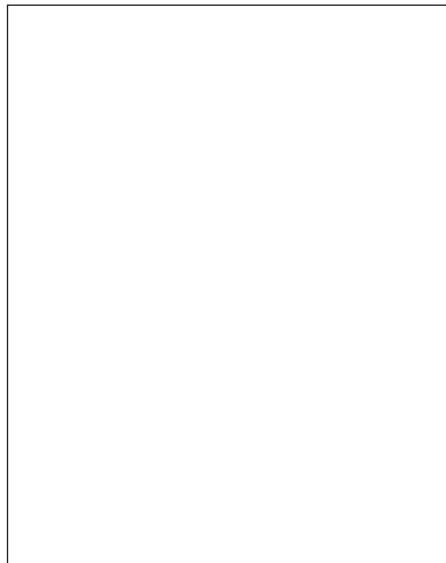
Food chain: Omnivore

What it eats: Earthworms and insects. Also forage for scraps.

Eaten by:

Habitat: Grassland

Description: During summer when they are breeding, adult gulls have a dark brown head. In winter, this is reduced to a spot behind the eye.



Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Group: Animal, Bird

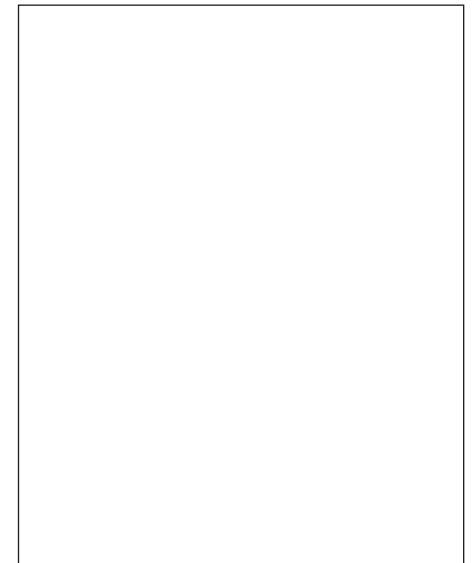
Food chain: Herbivore

What it eats: Grass

Eaten by: Fox

Habitat: Grassland

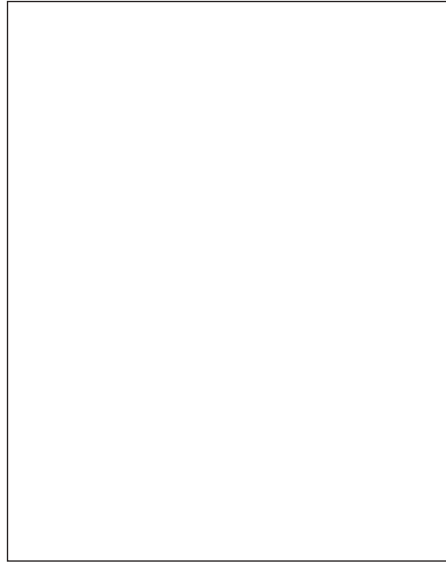
Description: A large noisy bird with brown back and wings, a black neck and face, and white cheek patches.



Organism factboxes – Birds

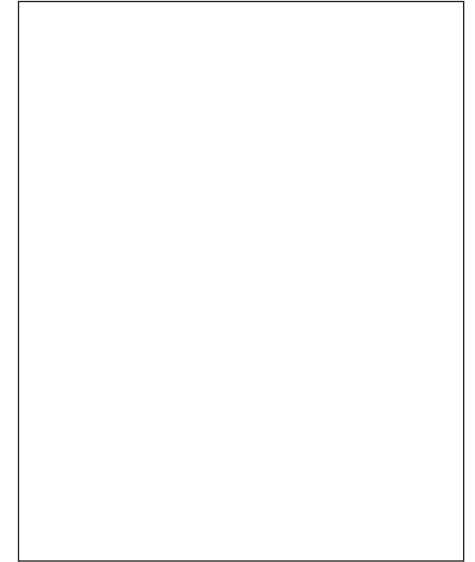
Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Group: Animal, Bird
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Seeds
Eaten by: Sparrowhawk, kestrel
Habitat: Woodland; Grassland
Description: Males have a red-buff head, with a slate-blue crown and nape in breeding season, a buff-chestnut back, olive-green rump and pink-red cheeks, throat and chest. Female chaffinches are much duller in colour. Both males and females have two white wing bars that are best seen in flight.



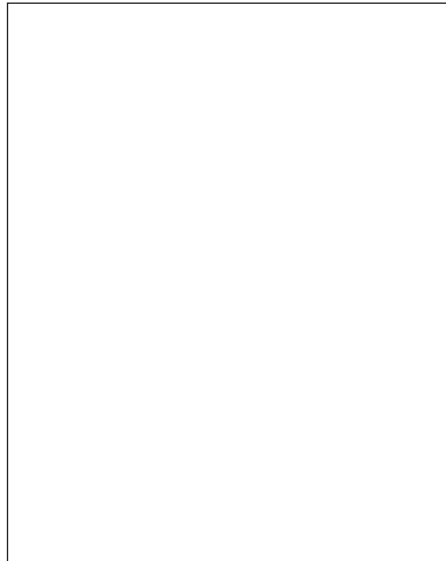
Crow *Corvus corvus corone*

Group: Animal, Bird
Food chain: Omnivore
What it eats: Carrion, berries, apples, frogs, beetles, other birds' chicks, earthworms.
Eaten by:
Habitat: Grassland
Description: Large, completely black bird with chunky beak. Usually alone or in pairs. If you see lots together, they are probably rooks!



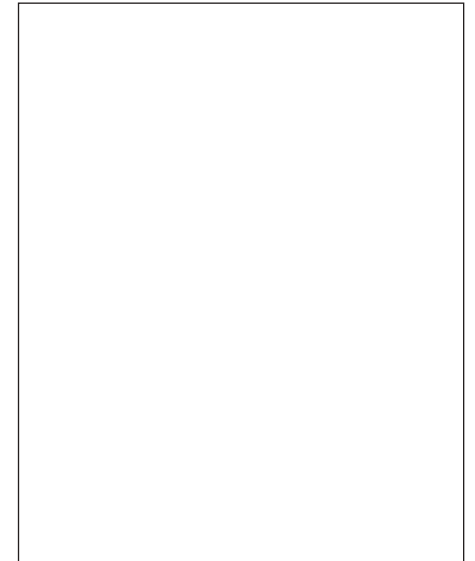
Coot *Fulica atra*

Group: Animal, Bird
Food chain: Omnivore
What it eats: Midge larvae, snails and other aquatic invertebrates plus duckweed and other water plants.
Eaten by: Fox. Herons will eat young coot.
Habitat: Pond
Description: A rounded, black bird, larger than the moorhen. It has a large white shield on its face. Its feet are not webbed, but instead have flaps of skin that act like paddles to help the bird swim. It makes a loud, metallic "kut" sound. Coots are noisy and quarrelsome.



Duck

Group: Animal, Bird
Food chain: Omnivore
What it eats: Aquatic plants, e.g. duckweed, and invertebrates, including pond snails and midge larvae.
Eaten by: Fox. crows and magpies eat eggs and young birds.
Habitat: Pond
Description: A waterbird that dives or dabbles for food. Ducks are smaller than swans and geese. They tend to have flattened beaks and eat pond plants and aquatic invertebrates. Mallard and Tufted Duck are two common species.



Organism factboxes – Birds

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Group: Animal, Bird

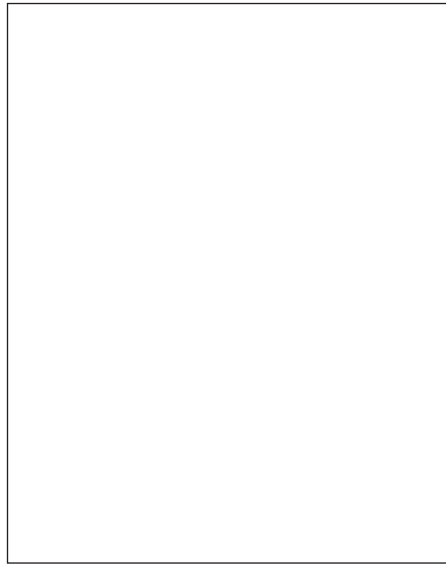
Food chain: Herbivore

What it eats: Seeds including dandelion, thistle.
Hawthorn berries.

Eaten by: Sparrowhawk

Habitat: Grassland

Description: A brightly-coloured finch with a bright red face, black head, pale brown body, and black wings with a bright yellow bar. Goldfinches often fly in twittering flocks. They use their sharp beak to feed on the seedheads of thistles, teasels and other plants.



Great Tit *Parus major*

Group: Animal, Bird

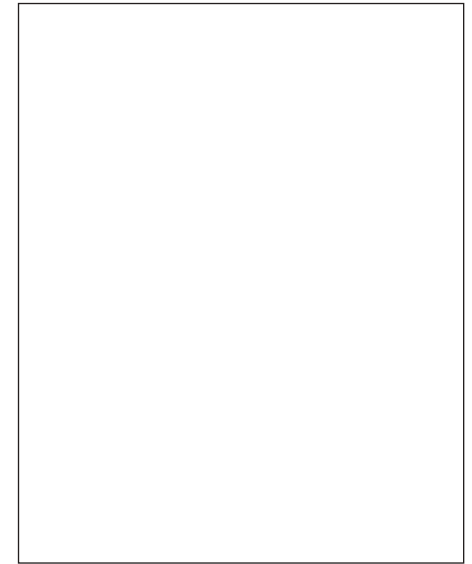
Food chain: Omnivore

What it eats: Caterpillars, seeds, nuts.

Eaten by: Sparrowhawk, babies eaten by woodpeckers.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: Olive green back and yellow belly with a black stripe down the middle, white cheeks and a black cap. Its two-syllable song sounds a bit like 'teacher teacher'.



Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos major

Group: Animal, Bird

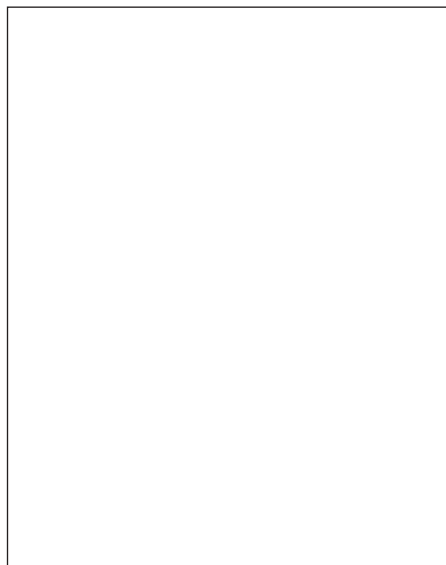
Food chain: Carnivore

What it eats: Insect larvae in wood, nuts, seeds.

Eaten by:

Habitat: Woodland

Description: A striking black and white bird with a red 'bottom' area. The males also have a red crown. They climb up tree trunks, using their strong beaks to find insect grubs living in the wood. They nest in holes in trees.



Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Group: Animal, Bird

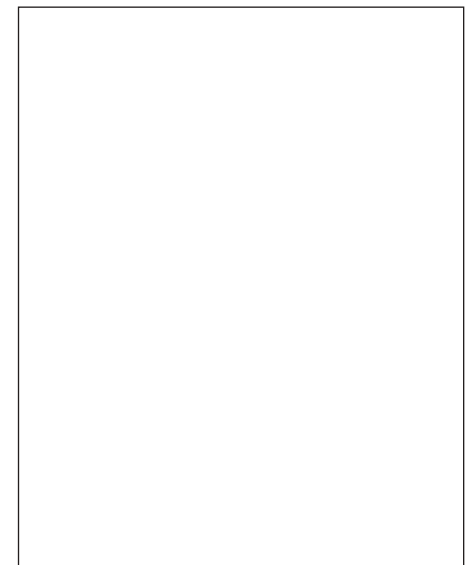
Food chain: Carnivore

What it eats: Beetle larvae in wood, ants.

Eaten by:

Habitat: Woodland

Description: The largest of Britain's woodpeckers. The upper body is greeny-grey, with a bright yellow-green rump and red patch on head. They spend as much time on the ground, hunting for ants, as they do in the trees. They make their own nesting holes in rotting trees.



Organism factboxes – Birds

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Group: Animal, Bird

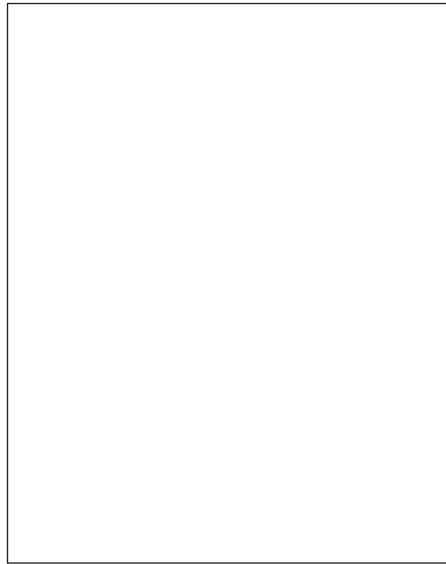
Food chain: Herbivore

What it eats: Seeds

Eaten by: Sparrowhawk, kestrel.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: Males are green with bright yellow flashes on the wings and tail. Females are a duller olive green. Both have a chunky beak and a dark mask around the eyes.



Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Group: Animal, Bird

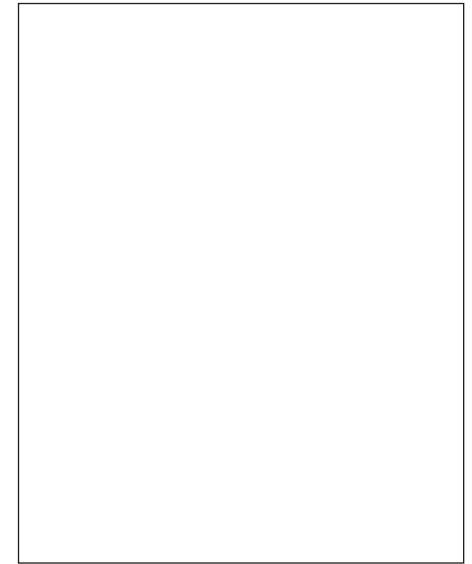
Food chain: Omnivore

What it eats: A wide variety of plants and animals. Predator of mice, frogs, slugs and snails, worms and ants and other invertebrates, also eat acorns and hazelnuts.

Eaten by:

Habitat: Woodland; Grassland

Description: Glassy blue-black birds with greyish patch on the back of the head and pale bluish eyes. Intelligent and inquisitive. Often feeds in invertebrates in short grassland in the breeding season.



Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Group: Animal, Bird

Food chain: Carnivore

What it eats: Fish, frogs, water voles.

Eaten by:

Habitat: Pond

Description: The Grey Heron stalks along the water's edge for food. It can stand for hours with its long neck stretched out, waiting for a fish to swim past. It has long legs for wading, and a long, sword-shaped beak. They nest in colonies in tall trees near water.



Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Falco tinnunculus

Group: Animal, Bird

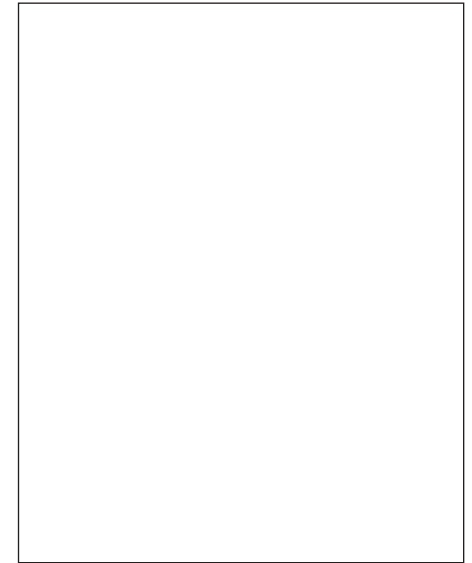
Food chain: Carnivore

What it eats: Mice, voles.

Eaten by:

Habitat: Grassland

Description: A bird of prey. Often hovers over roadside and motorway verges waiting for mice and other prey.



Organism factboxes – Birds

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Group: Animal, Bird

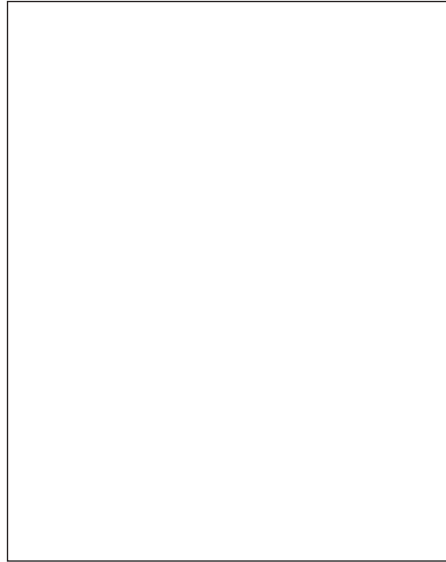
Food chain: Carnivore

What it eats: Fish

Eaten by:

Habitat: Pond

Description: An unmistakable electric blue and orange bird. It lives by ponds and streams where it plunge-dives for fish. Often all you will see of it is a blue flash as it flies past.



Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Group: Animal, Bird

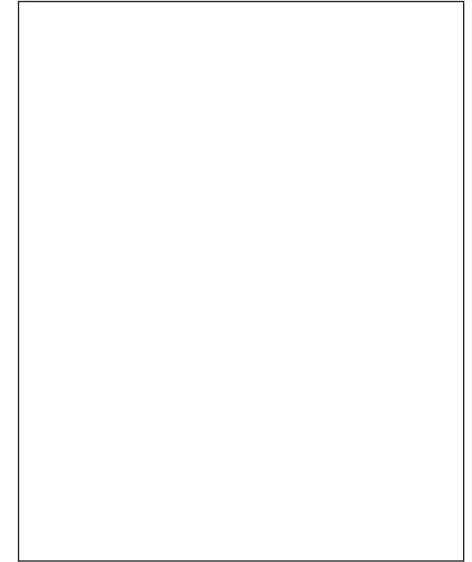
Food chain: Omnivore

What it eats: Midge larvae, snails, worms and other aquatic invertebrates, plus water plants, seeds, fruit and grasses.

Eaten by: Fox. Herons will eat young moorhens.

Habitat: Pond

Description: Moorhens are smaller than coots and have a black body with a white stripe along the side, and a stubby tail that is white below. The beak is red with a pointed yellow tip. The legs and feet are a greenish yellow and the feet are not webbed, but have very long toes – good for supporting the bird's weight when walking over water weed. It makes a loud "kurr'uk" call.



Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Group: Animal, Bird

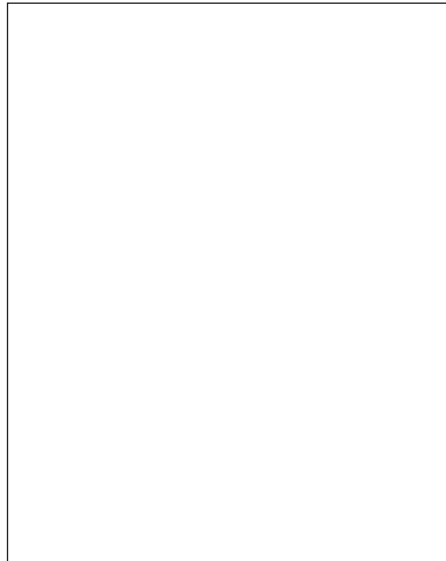
Food chain: Omnivore

What it eats: Aquatic plants, e.g. duckweed, and invertebrates such as pond snails.

Eaten by: Fox, crows and magpies eat eggs and young birds.

Habitat: Pond

Description: The commonest type of duck. Males are brightly coloured with a dark green head, purple-brown body and yellow beak. Females are mainly brown. The female makes the 'quack' noise.



Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Group: Animal, Bird

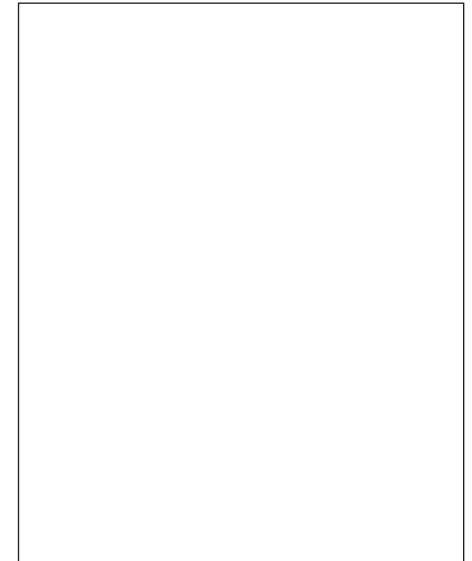
Food chain: Carnivore

What it eats: Caterpillars, spiders, earthworms, seeds, fruit.

Eaten by: Sparrowhawk

Habitat: Woodland

Description: A brown bird with a bright red breast. They have a lovely warbling song which they use to announce their territories. They are very territorial and will chase other birds away.



Organism factboxes – Birds

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Group: Animal, Bird

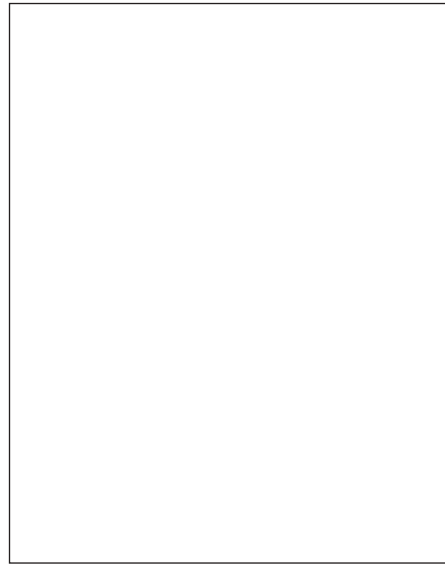
Food chain: Carnivore

What it eats: Small birds including robin, bluetit, great tit.

Eaten by:

Habitat: Woodland

Description: One of our smallest birds of prey. It hunts birds and other small creatures in woodlands. Its broad rounded wings and flexible tail mean that it is good at fast, manoeuvrable flight, weaving between the trunks and branches.



Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Group: Animal, Bird

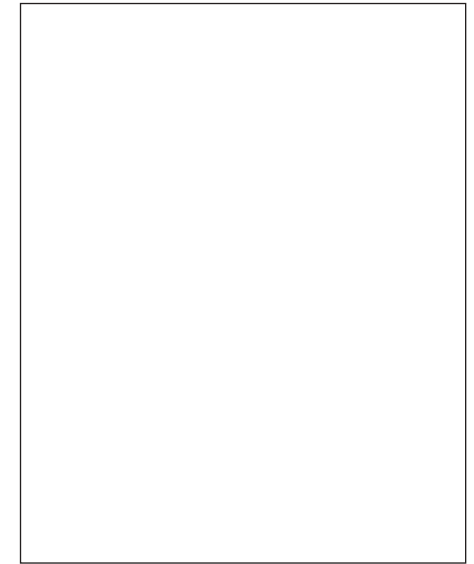
Food chain: Carnivore

What it eats: Moths, hoverflies, flying ants, caddis flies and other flying insects.

Eaten by: Sparrowhawk

Habitat: Pond; Grassland

Description: Small birds that are very fast, agile fliers. They catch insects on the wing. The head, back and wings are dark glossy blue, the underparts are white, and the throat is red. The long tail is divided into two streamers. Swallows migrate to Britain in summer to breed, then fly back to Africa for winter.



Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Group: Animal, Bird

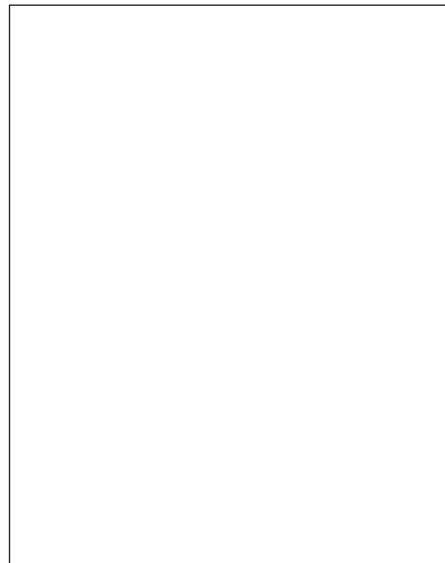
Food chain: Omnivore

What it eats: Seeds, berries, earthworms and other soil invertebrates.

Eaten by: Sparrowhawk

Habitat: Grassland

Description: Black feathers which in the sunlight have a beautiful iridescent purple and green sheen. Starlings are very sociable, especially at night when they roost in big flocks. Starlings use their long pointed beak to search for earthworms and other 'creepy crawlies' in the grass and leaf litter.



Swan *Cygnus olor*

Group: Animal, Bird

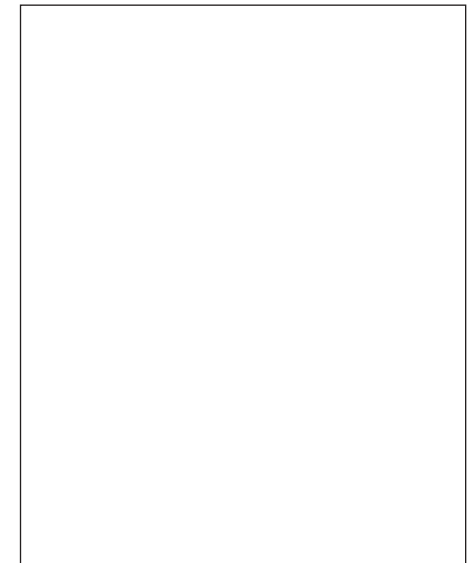
Food chain: Herbivore

What it eats: Aquatic plants and invertebrates.

Eaten by: Fox

Habitat: Pond

Description: Mute swans are large white birds with a long neck and an orange and black beak.



Organism factboxes – Birds

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Group: Animal, Bird

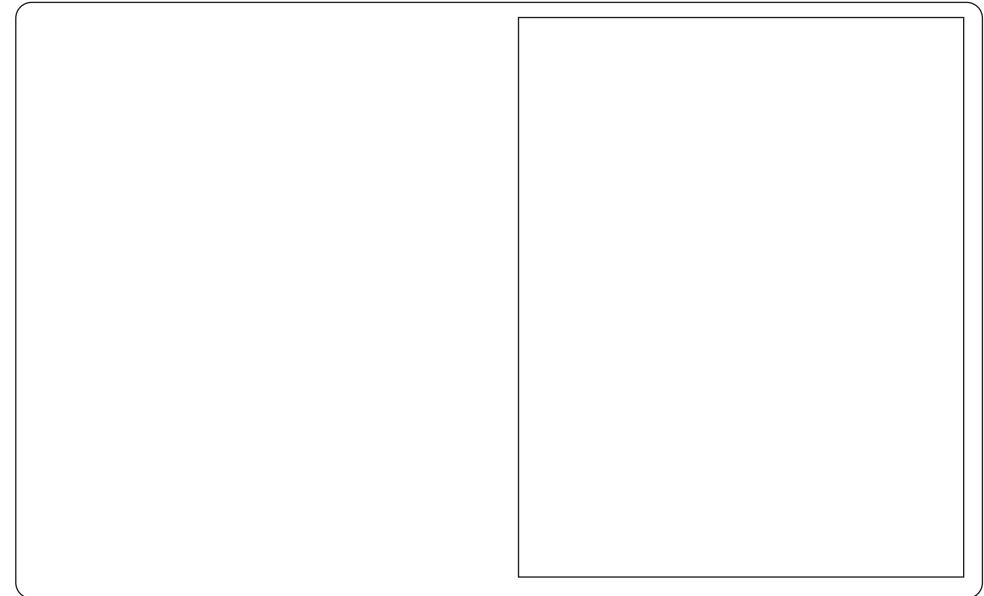
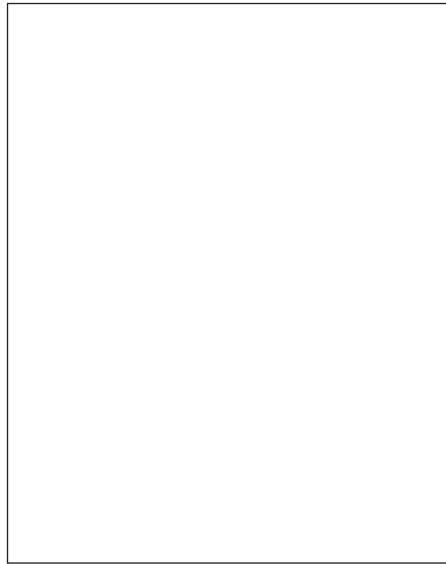
Food chain: Carnivore

What it eats: Wood mouse, weasel, frog, vole, shrew, squirrel.

Eaten by:

Habitat: Woodland

Description: The Tawny Owl is the one you are most likely to see or hear. They hoot and make a 'keewick' noise. The Barn Owl and Little Owl also hunt in woods and fields.



Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Group: Animal, Bird

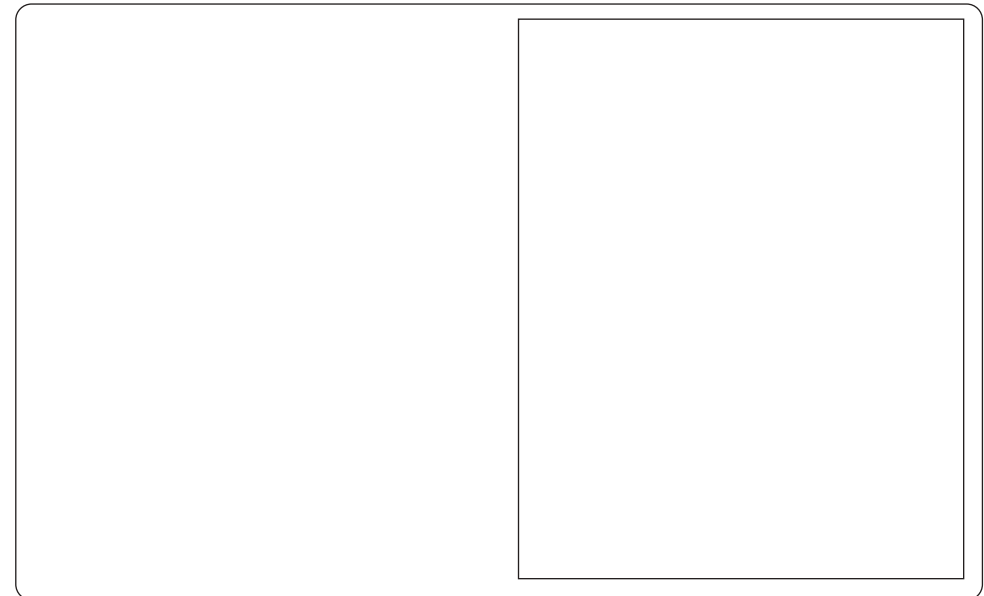
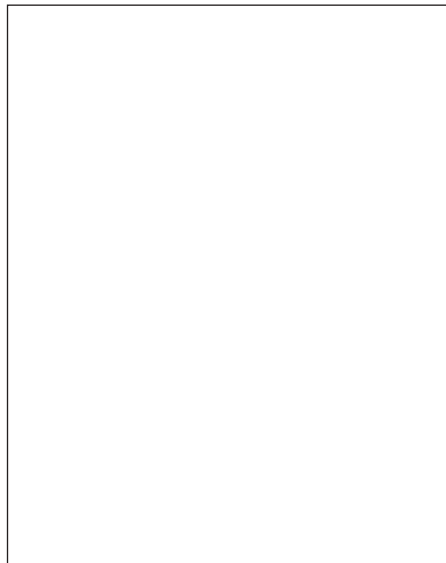
Food chain: Herbivore

What it eats: Seeds, leaves (especially cabbages!), berries and tree buds.

Eaten by: Sparrowhawk, kestrel, fox

Habitat: Woodland

Description: A large mainly grey bird with white flashes on the side of the neck and white wing patches.



Organism factboxes – Amphibians

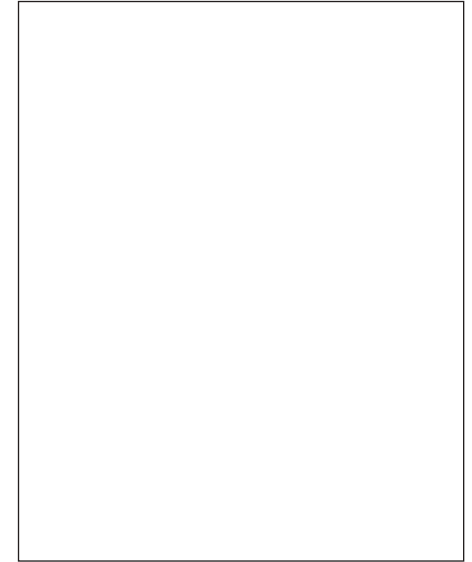
Frog *Rana temporaria*

Group: Animal, Amphibian
Food chain: Carnivore
What it eats: Insects and other invertebrates
Eaten by: Grass snake, heron, fox
Habitat: Pond
Description: Frogs have smooth, moist skin, that varies in colour from light brown to olive or dark brown. Strong back legs help them to swim and hop.



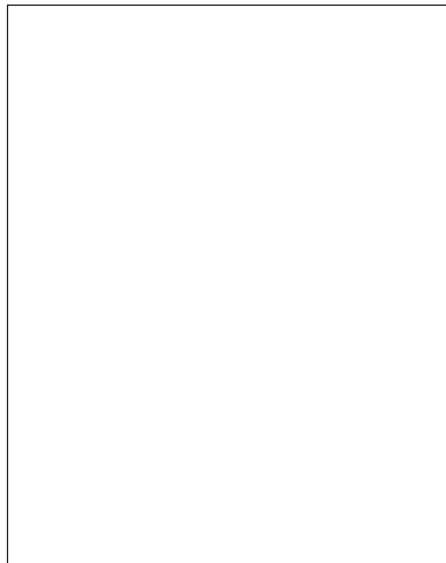
Tadpole

Group: Animal, Amphibian
Food chain: Omnivore
What it eats: Algae, pondweeds then other invertebrates as it grows.
Eaten by: Dragonfly larva, stickleback
Habitat: None
Description: Tadpoles hatch from frogspawn, and turn into frogs. They live in ponds and eat algae and other pondweed when they are small, then eat other small animals as they get larger. As they mature, they lose the gills that help them to breathe underwater, lose their tail, grow legs and turn into frogs.



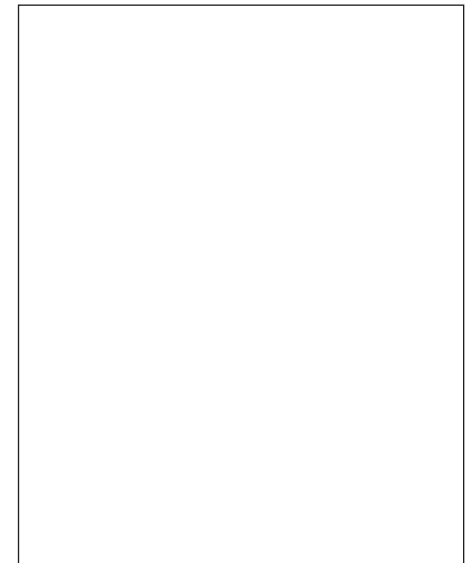
Smooth Newt *Triturus vulgaris*

Group: Animal, Amphibian
Food chain: Carnivore
What it eats: Insects and other invertebrates.
Eaten by: Grass snake, heron
Habitat: Pond
Description: The smooth newt is the commonest of all our newts. It has a brown body with black spots on the sides. The underparts are orange bordered with cream.



Toad *Bufo bufo*

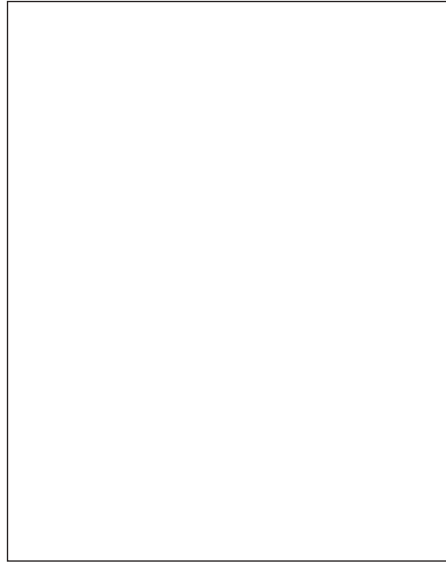
Group: Animal, Amphibian
Food chain: Carnivore
What it eats: Insects, slugs
Eaten by: Grass snake, fox. Great diving beetles and other predatory water creatures eat tadpoles.
Habitat: Woodland; Grassland; Pond
Description: Toads have dry, warty skin, and are usually dark green or brown. They spend most of their time in damp places on land, only going back to ponds to breed.
Like frogs, they spend the first part of their life underwater, as tadpoles.



Organism factboxes – Invertebrates

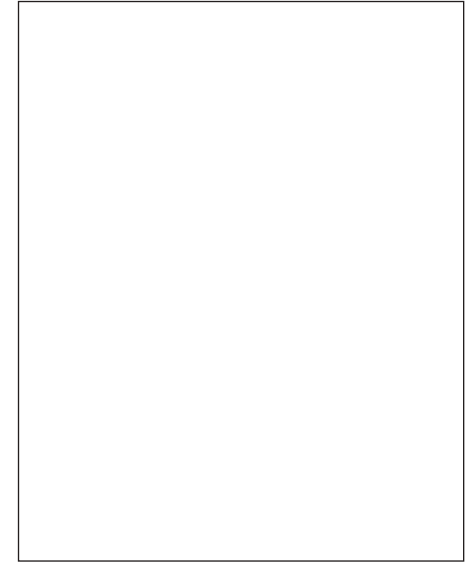
Ant

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Omnivore
What it eats: Ants eat almost anything they can find, including dead insects, seeds, nectar and the honeydew that aphids produce.
Eaten by: Green woodpecker, starling, spider, toad. Swallows catch flying males and queens.
Habitat: Woodland; Grassland
Description: Ants are sociable insects that live in large colonies. Only the queen ant lays eggs. The worker ants look after her, the grubs (larvae) and each other. Male and new queen ants have wings, but worker ants don't. There are lots of species of ant. Some can sting.



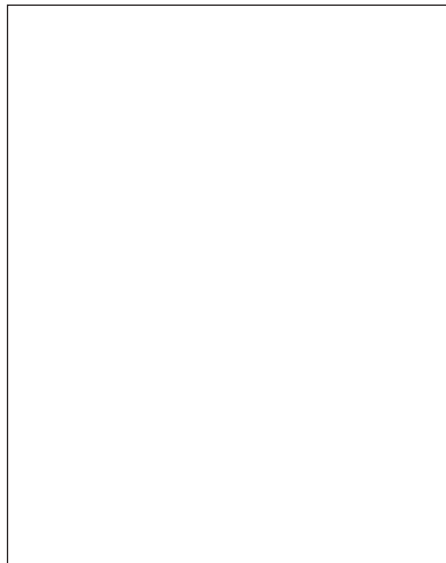
Backswimmer *Notonecta glauca*

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Omnivore
What it eats: Other water invertebrates, tadpoles and small fish.
Eaten by: Mallard, dragonfly larvae
Habitat: Pond
Description: Also called a Water Boatman. It swims underwater on its back, carrying an air bubble to breathe from.



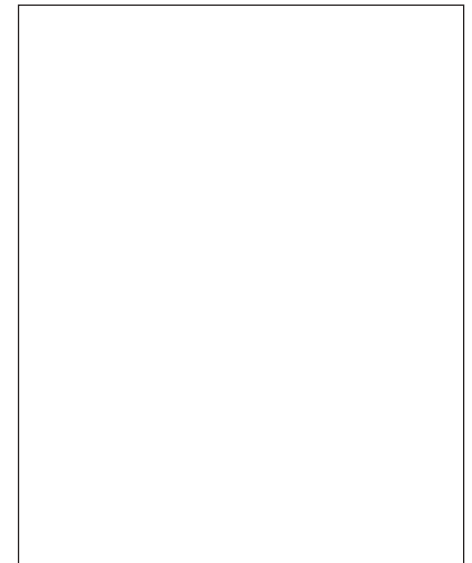
Aphid

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Plant sap – trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses.
Eaten by: Ladybird, hoverfly larvae.
Habitat: Woodland; Grassland
Description: Aphids (greenfly and blackfly) are small sap-sucking insects. They exude honeydew which is sweet and sticky part-digested plant sap. Ants 'farm' aphids for their honeydew, protecting them from predators. Many aphids have a complicated life-cycle with winged and wingless adults, and sometimes they produce young without mating.



Bee

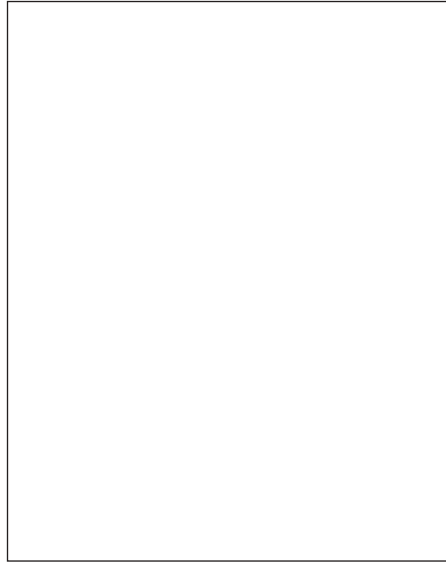
Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Omnivore
What it eats: Nectar and pollen
Eaten by: Spider
Habitat: Woodland, Grassland
Description: Bees are flying insects that feed on pollen and nectar. There are lots of types of bees, including honey bees and bumble bees. Bees often have furry bodies. Many bees live in sociable groups.



Organism factboxes – Invertebrates

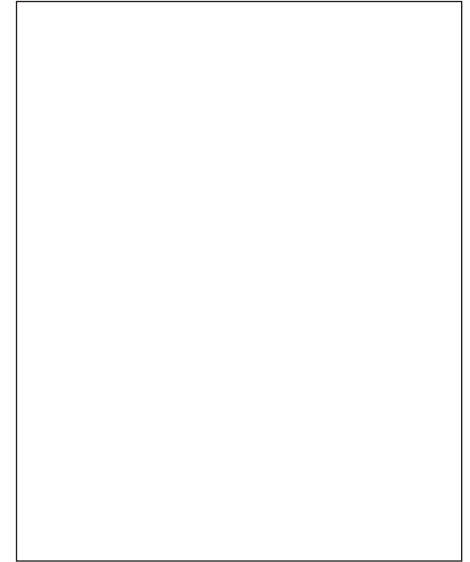
Beetle

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Omnivore
What it eats:
Eaten by:
Habitat: Woodland; Dead Wood
Description: Beetles are insects with the front wings modified to form wing cases. They are hard and often shiny. The back pair of wings are hidden underneath and only revealed when the beetle flies. The wing cases meet in a line down the middle of the body (unlike bugs, where the wing tips overlap). Beetles all have chewing mouthparts, while bugs have piercing mouthparts. There are more types of beetle than any other insect in the world.



Bug

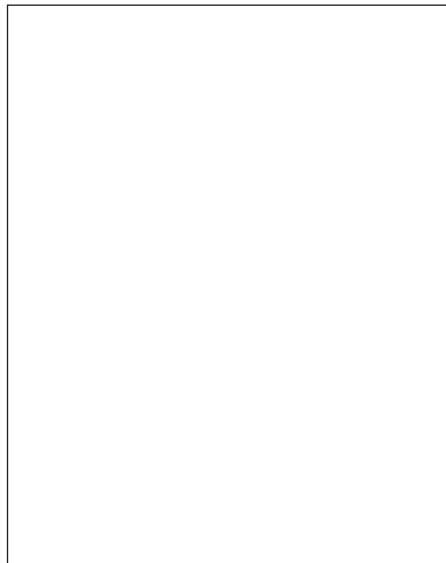
Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore; Carnivore
What it eats: Plant sap, insect juices, animal blood
Eaten by: Spiders
Habitat: Grassland; woodland; pond
Description: The word 'bug' is often used for all insects, but scientifically, a bug is a type of insect with sucking mouthparts. Most bugs suck plant sap, but a few suck on the bodies of other insects or animals. In many species, the top wings are hard and colourful, but have a clear patch at the tip where the wings cross.



Brimstone Butterfly

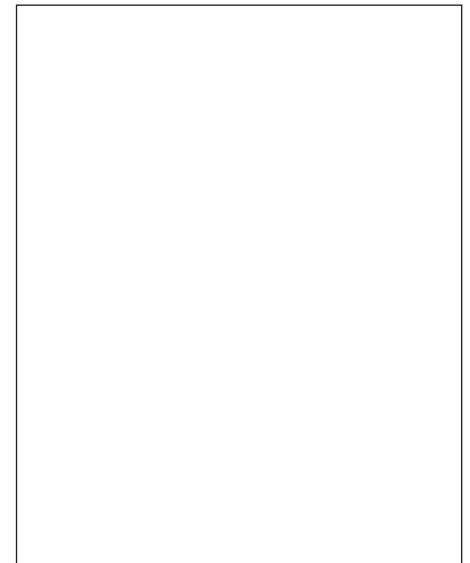
Gonepteryx rhamni

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Nectar. Caterpillars eat leaves of buckthorn.
Eaten by: Spiders
Habitat: Woodland
Description: A sulphur-yellow butterfly. It hibernates over winter, usually in ivy, and is often the first butterfly you see in spring.



Bumble Bee *Bombus species*

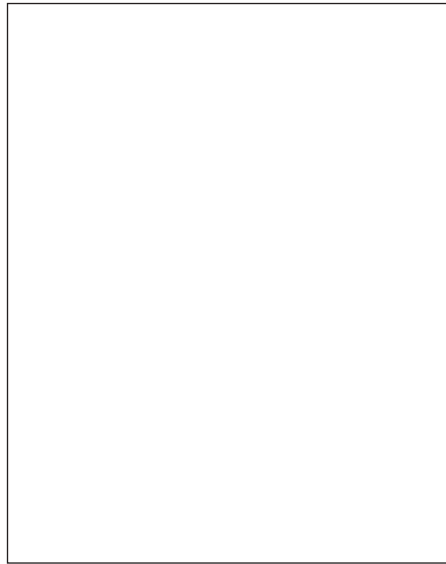
Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Nectar and pollen.
Eaten by: Spiders
Habitat: Grassland
Description: Bumble bees are large and hairy. They live in small colonies, often nesting in old mouse holes. The worker bees bring nectar and pollen back to the nest to feed the young grubs (larvae).



Organism factboxes – Invertebrates

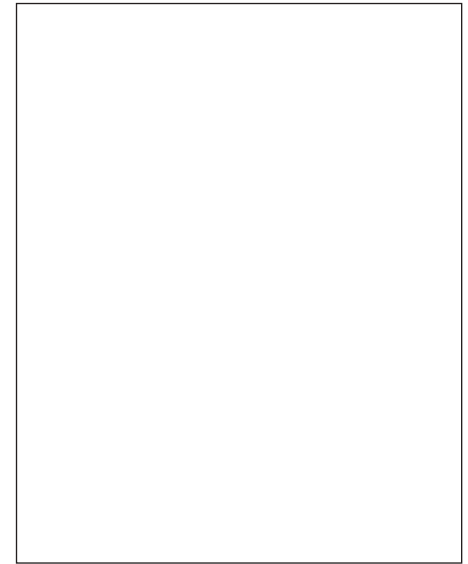
Butterfly

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Nectar
Eaten by: Spiders
Habitat: Woodland
Description: Butterflies have a long, coiled tongue (proboscis). They can reach nectar that is hidden deep in flowers with long tubes. Their wings are covered in tiny scales and the upper surface is usually brightly patterned. The undersides are usually duller and often have a camouflage pattern, so a resting butterfly is hard to spot amongst leaves.



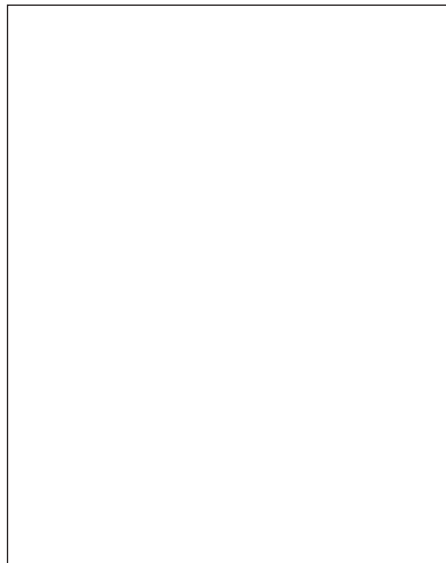
Caterpillar

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Leaves
Eaten by: Bluetit
Habitat: Woodland
Description: Caterpillars are the larvae of butterflies and moths. They hatch from eggs laid by the adult. Caterpillars usually eat plants. They grow quickly. A caterpillar's skin isn't very stretchy and can't grow much, so as the caterpillar gets bigger, it sheds its skin. When it reaches full size it turns into a chrysalis (or pupa). Inside the chrysalis, the insect's body is transformed. It hatches out as a butterfly or moth.



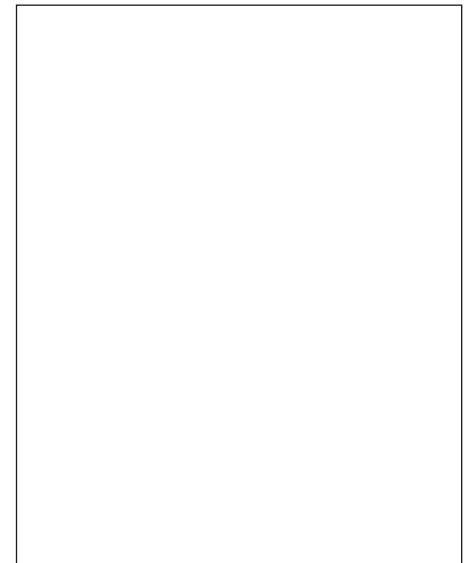
Caddis Fly

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Omnivore
What it eats: Larvae eat algae, detritus, small aquatic invertebrates.
Eaten by: Adults eaten by spiders and dragonflies. Larvae eaten by duck, dragonfly larvae, stickleback.
Habitat: Pond
Description: Adults are brownish moth-like insects. Larvae live underwater. They make cases to protect their soft bodies, using small stones, tiny shells or water weed.



Centipede

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Carnivore
What it eats: Small invertebrates, especially small earthworms.
Eaten by: Hedgehog, insect-eating birds, e.g. robin, blackbird.
Habitat: Woodland; Dead Wood
Description: Centipedes have a long thin body that is usually flattened and legs that stick out at the side. There is one pair of legs per body segment. They don't have 100 legs, as their name suggests – the longest have around 50.

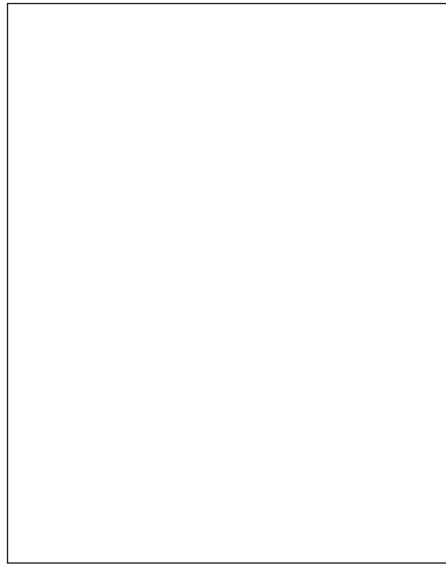


Organism factboxes – Invertebrates

Common Blue Butterfly

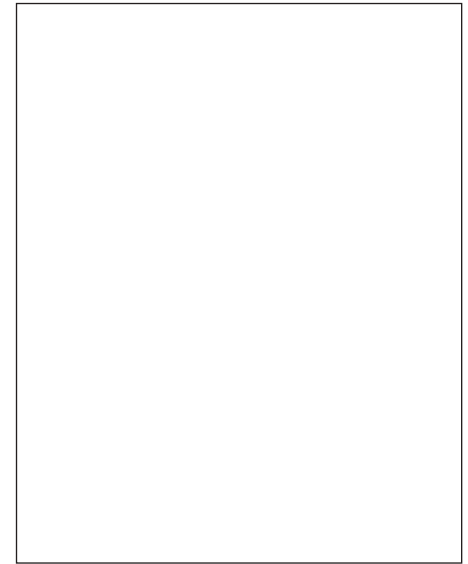
Polyommatus icarus

- Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Nectar. Caterpillars eat grassland plants.
Eaten by: Spiders
Habitat: Grassland
Description: The upper sides of the wings are blue, almost violet. The undersides are pale brown patterned with white-ringed black spots and orange patterned borders.



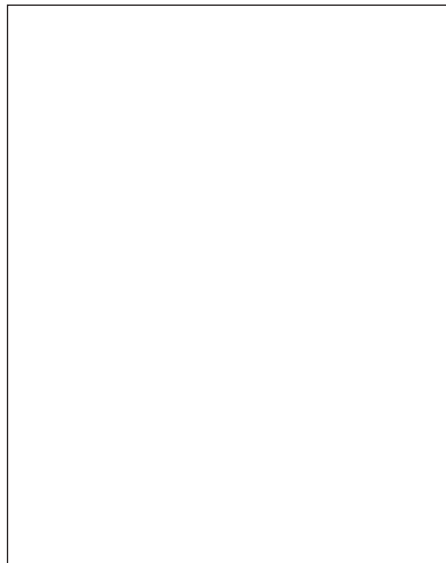
Dragonfly

- Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Carnivore
What it eats: Adults eat flying insects, mainly midges and mosquitoes. The larvae live under water, and eat almost any creature smaller than themselves, including other insect larvae and tadpoles.
Eaten by: Adults are eaten by spiders, frogs, and predatory birds. Larvae are eaten by fish, frogs, toads and newts.
Habitat: Pond; Grassland
Description: Dragonflies are larger than Damselflies and rest with their wings held out from the body, often at right angles to it. They often hunt well away from water. Dragonflies start life underwater as larvae (called nymphs). Nymphs are voracious predators.



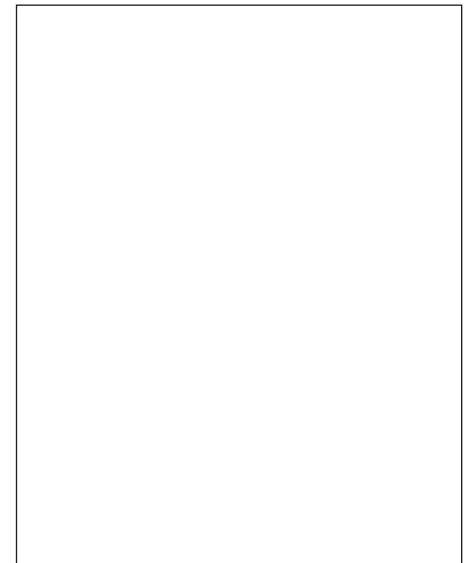
Damselfly

- Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Carnivore
What it eats: Adults eat flying insects, mainly midges and mosquitoes. The larvae live under water and eat almost any creature smaller than themselves, including other insect larvae and tadpoles.
Eaten by: Adults are eaten by spiders, frogs. Larvae are eaten by fish, frogs, toads and newts.
Habitat: Pond
Description: Damselflies are smaller than dragonflies. They rest with their wings held together in line with their body. Damselflies start life underwater as larvae (also called nymphs). Nymphs are voracious predators.



Earthworm *Lumbricus terrestris*

- Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore; Decomposer
What it eats: Dead leaves and small pieces of plant material in the soil.
Eaten by: Birds, especially robins and blackbirds, toads, badgers.
Habitat: Woodland; Grassland
Description: Earthworms pull leaves down into their tunnels in the soil, helping to recycle them back into the soil.



Organism factboxes – Invertebrates

Elephant Hawk Moth

Deilephila elpenor

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)

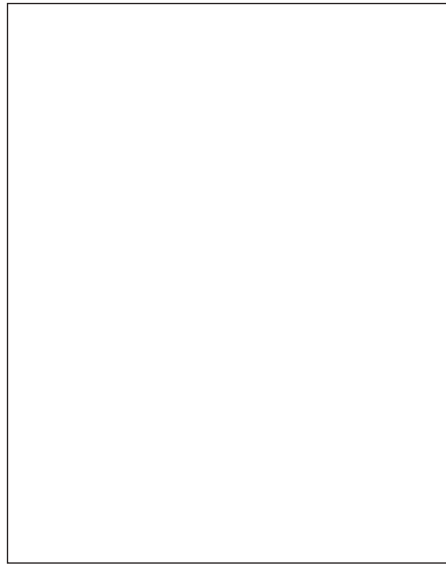
Food chain: Herbivore

What it eats: Moths drink nectar from flowers. Caterpillar eats willowherb and bedstraw.

Eaten by: Bat. The caterpillars are eaten by insect-eating birds.

Habitat: Woodland

Description: A large olive-green and pink moth. The caterpillars can grow to 7cm, and are brown or green, have a spike at their tail-end and a trunk-like snout (hence the name). They have two large eye-spots that mimic larger, less tasty animals. They eat willowherb and bedstraw leaves.



Fungus Gnat *Sciara thomae*

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)

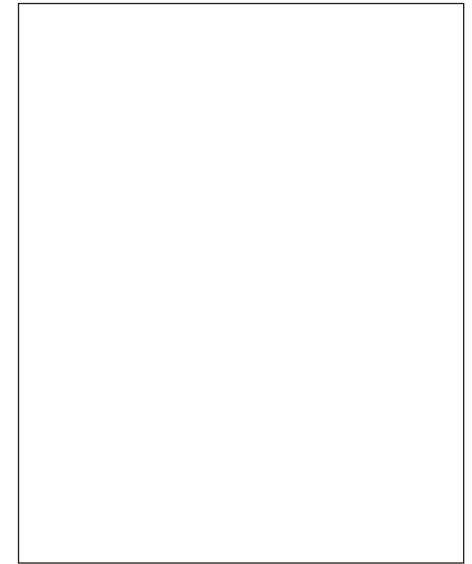
Food chain: Herbivore (fungivore)

What it eats: Mushrooms

Eaten by: Spider

Habitat: Dead Wood

Description: A black fly. The larvae look like white worms with a dark head and feed on mushrooms.



Fly

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)

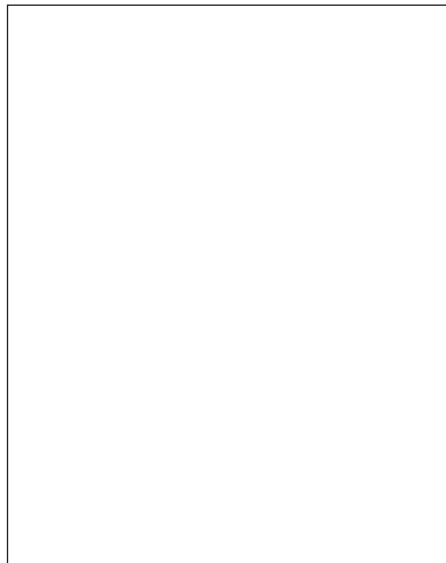
Food chain: Herbivore, Carnivore

What it eats: Nectar, blood, animal dung.

Eaten by: Spiders, dragonflies

Habitat: Woodland; Grassland

Description: True flies have only one pair of wings. The hind wings are reduced to minute drumstick-shaped structures called halteres, or balancers. Most flies feed on liquids, such as nectar or blood. Houseflies feed on solid food by dissolving it first, by regurgitating digestive fluids onto it then soaking up the fluid.



Great Diving Beetle

Dytiscus marginalis

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)

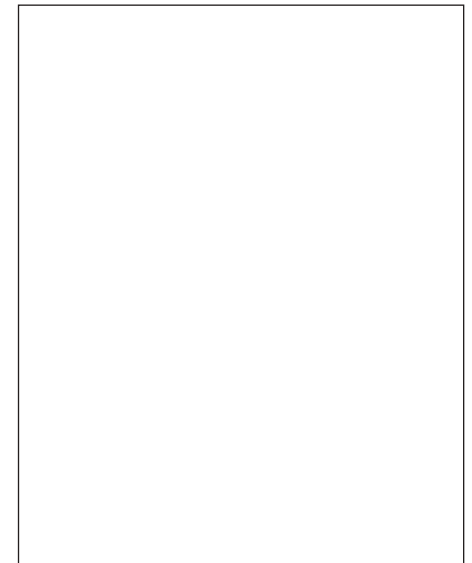
Food chain: Producer

What it eats: Anything smaller than itself, including other water invertebrates, tadpoles and small fish.

Eaten by: Heron

Habitat: Pond

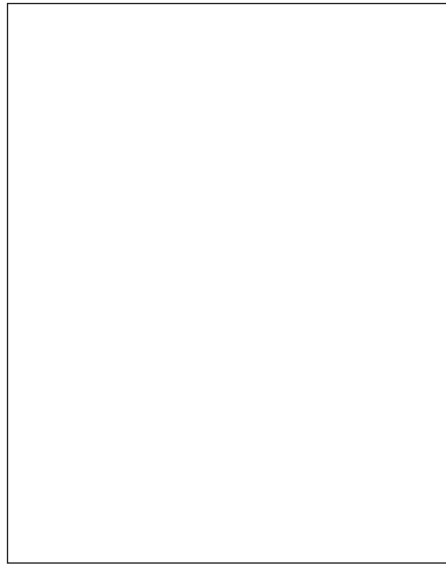
Description: A large water beetle, about 3 cm long. The body is olive green with a yellow border. The larvae live underwater and can grow to about 5 cm long and have large jaws.



Organism factboxes – Invertebrates

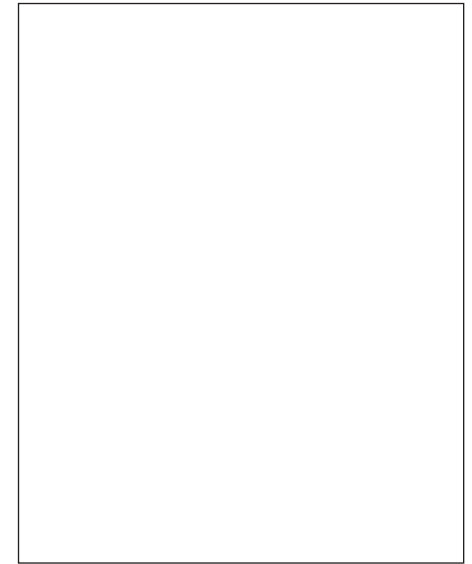
Ground Beetle

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Carnivore
What it eats: Slugs and snails, other invertebrates, sometimes also carrion.
Eaten by: Hedgehog
Habitat: Woodland; Dead Wood; Grassland
Description: Ground beetles are usually black, or sometimes beautiful iridescent colours. They have long legs and are fast-running predators with powerful jaws. The larvae are also predatory.



Honey Bee *Apis mellifera*

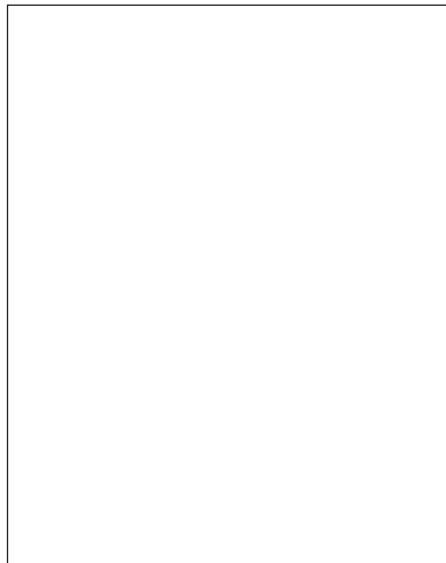
Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Omnivore
What it eats: Nectar and pollen.
Eaten by: Spiders
Habitat: Grassland
Description: A social bee that lives in hives of up to 500,000 individuals. Once she has mated, the queen bee stays inside the hive, being looked after by the worker bees. The worker bees collect pollen and nectar to eat and to feed the young grubs (larvae).
The worker bees are all female. The males bees (drones) are looked after by the workers until they fly off to mate.



Holly Blue Butterfly

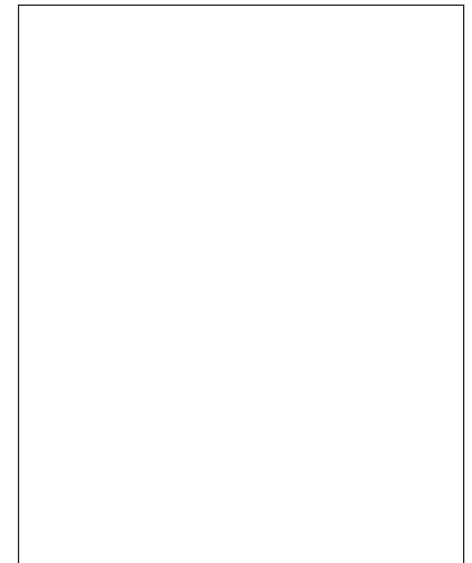
Celastrina argiolus

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Nectar. Caterpillars eat holly and ivy.
Eaten by: Spiders
Habitat: Woodland
Description: The underside of the wings are powdery blue speckled with black. The upper sides are lilac blue. There are two generations a year. The first caterpillars of the year eat holly, the second batch eat ivy.



Hoverfly

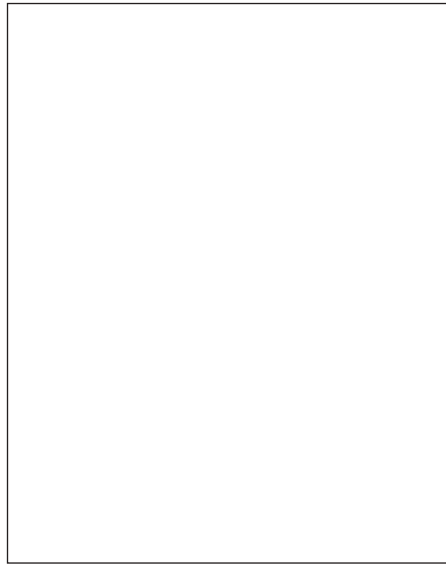
Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Omnivore
What it eats: Nectar and pollen. Larvae of some species eat aphids.
Eaten by: Spider
Habitat: Grassland
Description: Hoverflies are brightly coloured and look like bees or wasps, but they don't sting. They mimic insects that sting and also taste unpleasant, so are avoided by predators. There are about 250 different types of hoverfly Britain.
Adult hoverflies feed on nectar and pollen from flowers. The larvae of different species eat different things. Some eat aphids. Others feed on plants, rotting wood or fungi.



Organism factboxes – Invertebrates

Ladybird

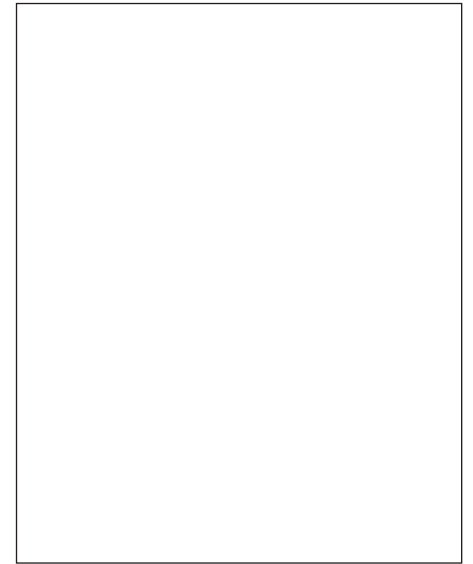
Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Carnivore
What it eats: Aphids
Eaten by:
Habitat: Woodland; Grassland
Description: Ladybirds are small, rounded beetles, usually brightly coloured and spotted. The seven-spot ladybird (*Coccinella 7-punctata*) is one of the commonest species. Both adults and larvae are predators on aphids. One ladybird can eat more than 5000 aphids in its year of life. Ladybirds lay bright yellow eggs that hatch into very active larvae. A ladybird's bright colours are a warning that it tastes nasty.



Meadow Brown Butterfly

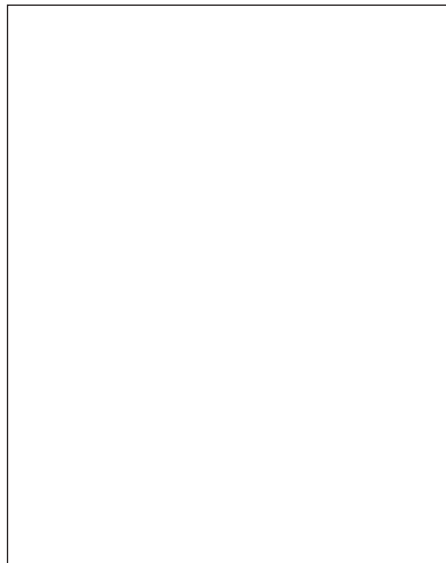
Maniola jurtina

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Caterpillar eats grass. Butterflies drink nectar.
Eaten by: Spiders
Habitat: Grassland
Description: A dark brown butterfly, with an eye spot in an orange patch on the front wings. The green, hairy caterpillars eat grasses.



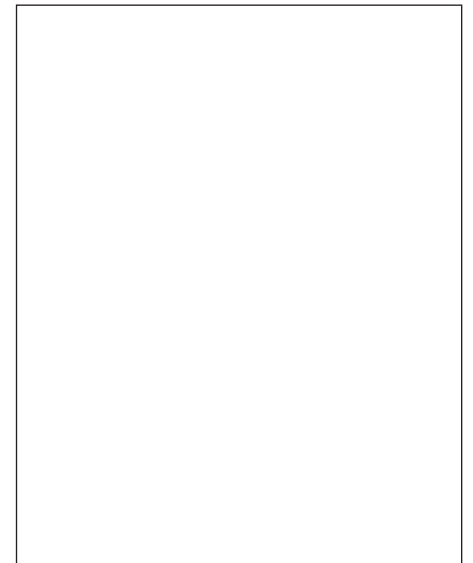
Longhorn Beetle

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Adults eat nectar and pollen. Larvae eat rotting wood.
Eaten by:
Habitat: Woodland; Dead Wood
Description: Most longhorn beetles have long antennae (hence the name) and an elongated body. There are lots of different species. Many are bright colours, that warn that they taste nasty. The larvae are grubs that feed on rotting wood. It can take two or three years for them to turn into beetles.



Millipede

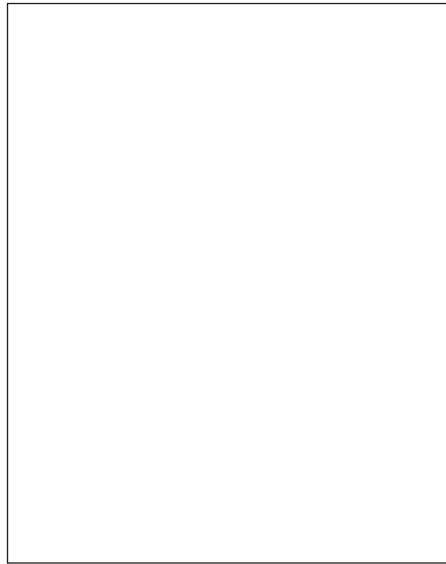
Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Decaying plants
Eaten by: Hedgehog
Habitat: Woodland; Dead Wood
Description: Long and thin with two pairs of legs per body segment. The body segments are usually rounded, not flattened like most centipedes. Millipedes tend to move slowly. They are herbivores, so don't have to chase prey.



Organism factboxes – Invertebrates

Pond Skater *Gerris lacustris*

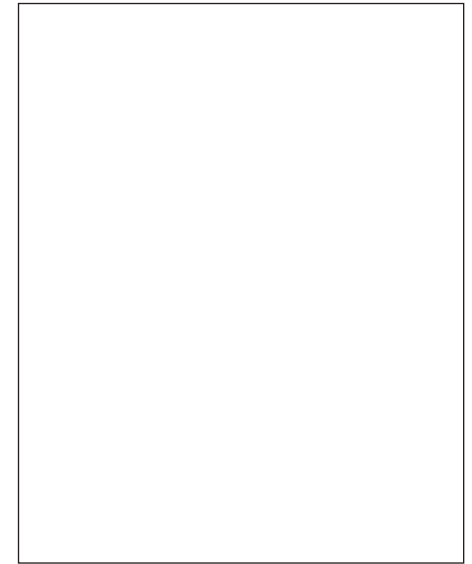
Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Carnivore
What it eats: Insects that land or fall onto the water surface.
Eaten by: Dragonflies and damselflies, spiders.
Habitat: Pond
Description: Skates on the surface (meniscus) of pond water, catching insects that fall in.



Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly

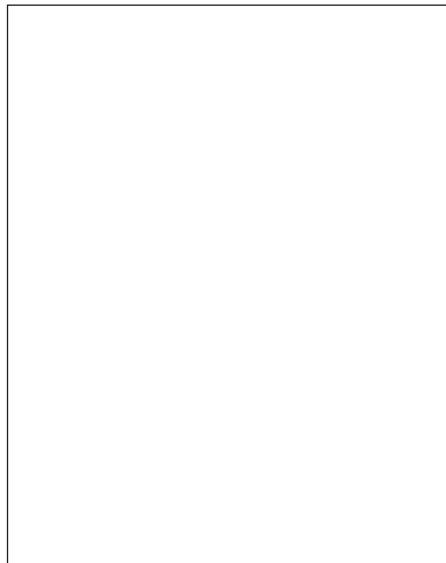
Aglais urticae

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Caterpillar eats nettles. Butterfly feeds on nectar.
Eaten by: Spiders
Habitat: Grassland
Description: A very beautiful butterfly with black, blue, orange, yellow and white patterns on the upper wings. The underside of the wings are very dark so the butterfly is camouflaged when its wings are folded.



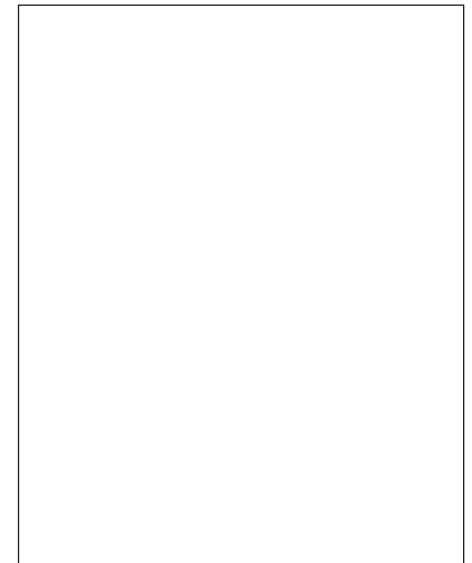
Slug

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Leaves
Eaten by: Hedgehog, ground beetle
Habitat: Woodland; Dead Wood; Grassland
Description: Slugs are molluscs. They have a slimy body that is always moist. If a slug dries out, it dies.



Snail

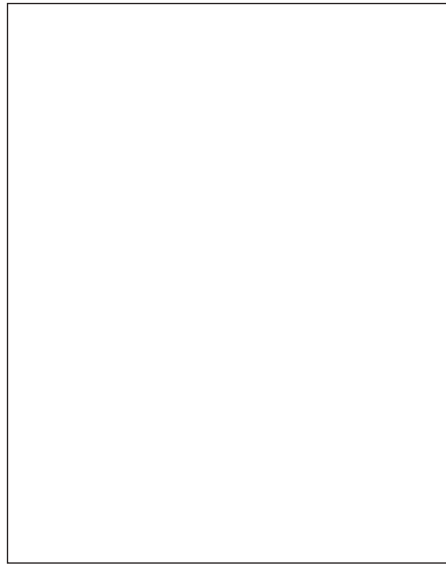
Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Leaves
Eaten by: Hedgehog, ground beetle
Habitat: Woodland; Dead Wood; Grassland
Description: Snails are molluscs. They have a slimy body and a shell. Snails hide inside their shell when the weather is dry.



Organism factboxes – Invertebrates

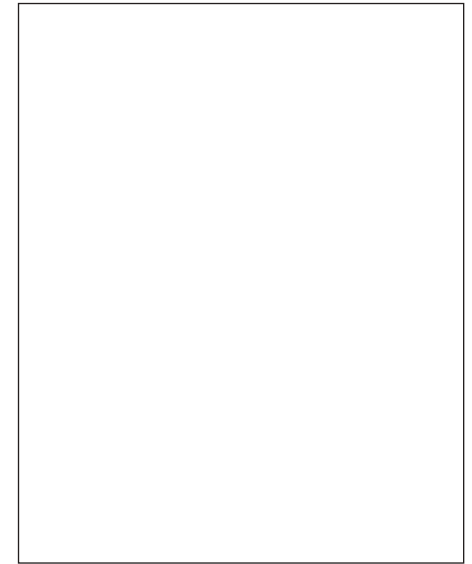
Soldier Beetle *Cantharis pellucida*

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Omnivore
What it eats: Greenfly, caterpillars and other soft-bodied invertebrates, nectar and pollen.
Eaten by:
Habitat: Grassland
Description: Long thin beetles, usually brightly coloured (named because the colours resemble military uniforms). The bright colours are a warning to potential predators that they taste unpleasant. They are predatory, and often lie in wait on flowers for insects to visit. Larvae are also predatory, hunting on the soil or under bark for soft-bodied insects and other invertebrate's eggs.



Spider

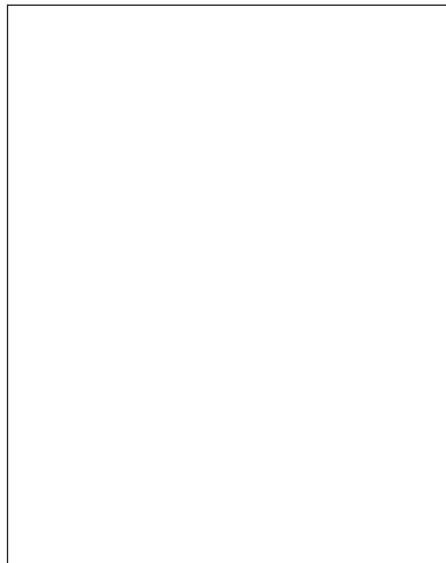
Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Carnivore
What it eats: Flying insects
Eaten by: Robin, wren
Habitat: Woodland
Description: Spiders have eight legs (so they are not insects, as they have six) and bodies divided into three parts – a head, thorax (where the legs are attached) and abdomen (usually the biggest 'bulge'). Spiders are predators that eat other invertebrates, especially flies. Most spiders build webs, but some hunt by stalking or ambushing then pouncing on their prey.



Speckled Wood Butterfly

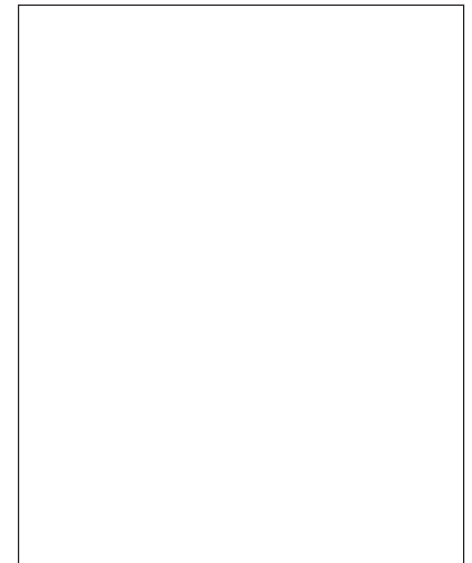
Pararge aegeria

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Nectar. The caterpillars eat grass.
Eaten by: Spiders
Habitat: Woodland
Description: A brown butterfly with cream spots. Often flutters around woodland edges.



Stag Beetle *Lucanus cervus*

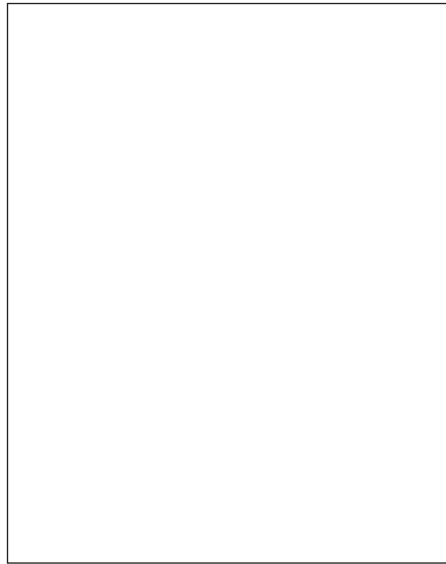
Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Larva eats dead wood. Adults do not eat, they just drink water and maybe some nectar.
Eaten by: Woodpeckers eat the larvae
Habitat: Woodland; Dead Wood
Description: A huge beetle – males can be up to 7 cm long. The body is black and the wing cases are shiny brown. Males have long antler-like jaws which they use in fights for females. Larvae (grubs) live in soft, rotting wood. It can take them up to five years to grow large enough to turn into adult beetles.



Organism factboxes – Invertebrates

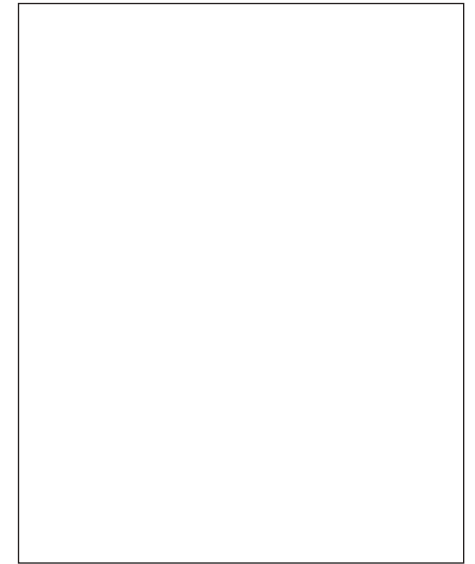
Sycamore Moth *Acronicta aceris*

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Caterpillars eat sycamore and field maple.
Eaten by: Moth eaten by bats.
Habitat: Woodland
Description: The moth is mottled grey and about 4 cm across. The caterpillars are hairy, bright yellow with orange 'punky' tufts, and have a line of black and white spots running down the back. The hairs discourage birds and other creatures from eating them.



Water Boatman *Corixa species*

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Algae and rotting plants.
Eaten by: Water beetles and dragonfly larvae
Habitat: Pond
Description: Underwater bug. Swims using its paddle-like back legs. Unlike the backswimmer (which is sometimes also called a water boatman) it swims the right way up.



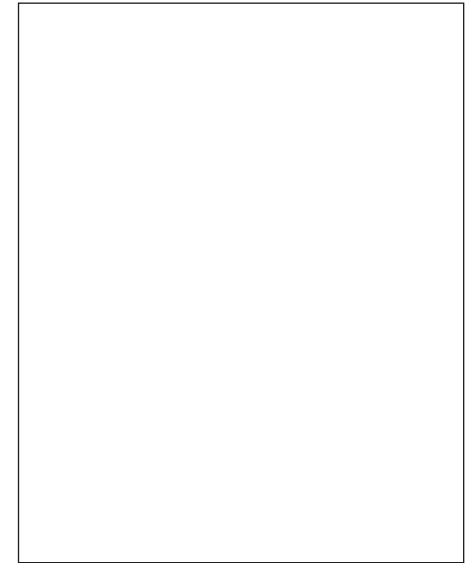
Wasp

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Omnivore
What it eats: Other insects and some nectar.
Eaten by: Spider
Habitat: None
Description: Wasps are flying insects that feed mainly on other insects, but also like to eat some things from plants (e.g. nectar). There are lots of types of wasps. The familiar common wasps are sociable, living in large groups in a nest. Digger wasps live in soil or rotting wood. Potter and mason wasps build small clay nests.



Water Flea *Daphnia pulex*

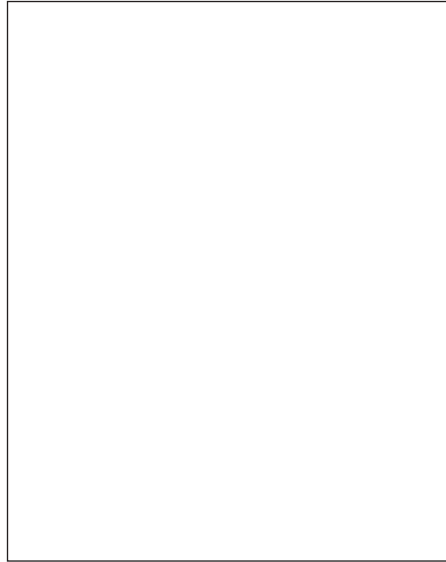
Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Algae, tiny bits of plant matter, bacteria,
Eaten by: Larger water invertebrates, sticklebacks and other fish.
Habitat: Pond
Description: Tiny aquatic creatures that swim with a sort of jumping movement (which is why they are called water fleas). The body is covered in a sort of shell called a carapace. You can see through the shell, so with a microscope or good hand lens you can see the heart beating.



Organism factboxes – Invertebrates

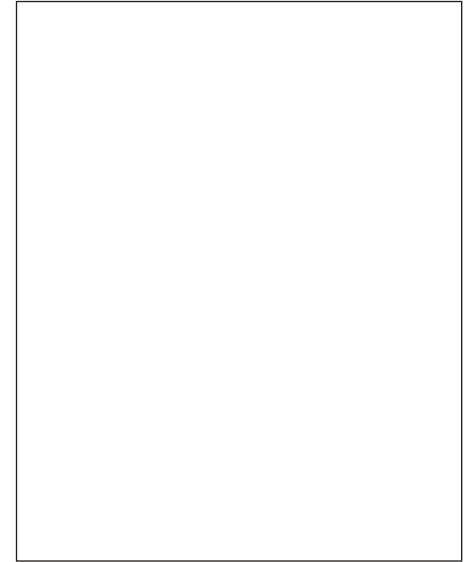
Water Snail

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Pond plants
Eaten by: Ducks, great diving beetle, dragonfly and damselfly larvae.
Habitat: Pond
Description: Snails that live underwater. Ramshorn snails are one common type.



Woodlouse

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Herbivore
What it eats: Dead wood and rotting leaves,
Eaten by: Hedgehog.
Habitat: Woodland; Dead Wood
Description: Woodlice live in damp places, in leaf litter and under stones and logs. The pill woodlouse (*Armadillidium vulgare*) can roll into a ball.



Whirligig Beetle *Gyrinus substriatus*

Group: Animal, Invertebrate (minibeast)
Food chain: Carnivore
What it eats: Midges, mosquitoes and other aquatic invertebrates,
Eaten by: Dragonfly larva
Habitat: Pond
Description: A shiny black beetle that swims on the surface (meniscus) of ponds. Lots of beetles usually swim together, making spinning patterns on the water.

