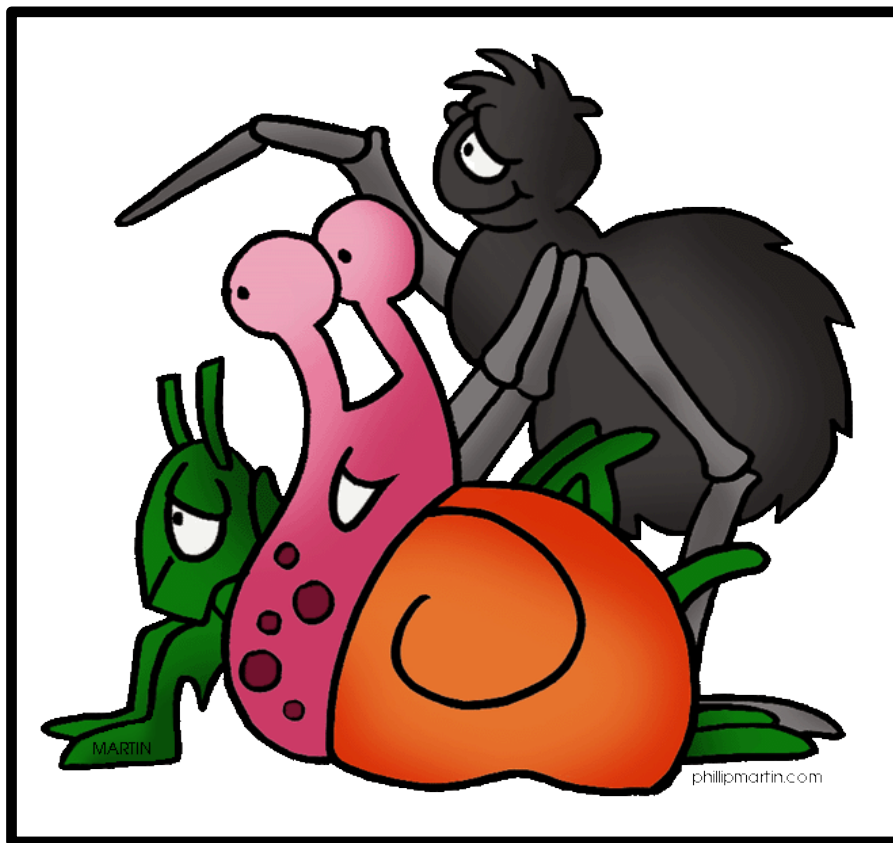


EUREKA!
the national children's museum

Nature's Stage



**Information for Group
Leaders**

Nature's Stage - Activity information

Interactive story based session – 'Nature's Stage'

'Nature's Stage' is a 30 minute fun and playful session for Early Years groups exploring the theme of minibeasts. Using storytelling and imaginative play children will be taken on an imaginative adventure to learn more about these tiniest of creatures and their habitats.

The session takes place in our Imagination Space where you will be introduced to Baby Glo. Unfortunately he is very upset as he is unable to attend the minibeast party, unlike his family he cannot glow, and only glowing worms can attend. So he takes it upon himself to learn how to glow and sets off on an adventure. Along the way he bumps into an ant, a spider, a worm and a snail. They help him along the way (apart from the jealous worm) and he is told he needs to visit the wise old Millipede who should be able to help with his glowing problem. Eventually he gets to the house of the millipede and he offers him the support he needs to be able to glow, after the adventure he has been on baby Glo has grown up and is now a fully-fledged glow worm, he joins his family at the party and dances/glows the night away.

The session includes interactive elements where the children can get involved.

30 Minutes after Nature's Stage

After the Nature's Stage session you are welcome to take your children out into the Eureka! grounds and explore the site. You will be given an activity pack that can be used during this time to help extend your children's learning.

Evaluation

Eureka! constantly aims to improve its programmes and feedback from adults and children is an essential part of this. We value all comments made and will always try our best to act upon them. As part of this pack we have enclosed an adult and child evaluation form which you can complete and return to the Learning Department at Eureka! It's difficult to gauge feedback from children in this age range but we would be

particularly interested in receiving any pictures or letters from the children telling us what they thought of their visit.

Pre-visit or Post-visit activities

Make a role play Bug Den

Turn a corner of your classroom into a bug den, you could include brown fabric, large plants, fake leaves etc. Provide a variety of minibeast outfits for the children to dress up in or puppets that they can use. Add some minibeast picture books for them to look at, can they name some minibeasts?

Minibeast Drama

Invite the children to sit with you at one end of your hall/clear space. Ask the children to imagine that you are all very small, as small as a minibeast. You are in a garden on a lovely sunny day. Ask them to tell you some things they might be able to see in this garden...grass, a hedge, a bench, a pond, stones? Will these things seem big or small to them if they are minibeasts? Would they like to explore this garden and all the enormous things in it? Remember how tiny you are...Invite the children to push their way through the tall grass. You come to some stones, but they seem huge. Try to climb up and over them. On the other side there is a worm wriggling along the ground. Wriggle like the worm until you come to the pond. It is so big it seems like the sea. What can the children hear by the pond? Careful, there's a big frog on a massive lily pad and he's getting ready to flick out his tongue for something small and juicy! A gigantic ladybird scurries past – scurry away like her. Continue the story, including other minibeasts and obstacles until you reach the other end of the room. Create opportunities to make sounds, use different words for size, and allow the children to think up ideas as you go.

Go on a Web Walk

Invite the children to come and listen to the story of *The Very Busy Spider*. As you read it, talk with the children about how the spider is making her web. How does she begin to make it? See how it builds up, round and round as she spins her silky thread. Ask the

children to come with you on a Web Walk. You are going to look for spiders' webs outside. Remind them to be careful, and not to touch the webs that they find in case they break them. Walk together around the outside space. If it is a dewy morning, there should be lots of webs that are easy to see. Listen to the children as they comment on what they see, and share with them the wonder of these beautiful structures. Give the children some paper and a pencil with a clip board and invite them to have a go at drawing one of the webs that they see. Take pictures of the webs. Have they seen any spiders? What do the spiders use the webs for?

Snail Collage

Show the children the picture of *The Snail*. Explain to them that it was made by a famous artist called Matisse. How do they think he made this picture? When you make a picture out of smaller bits of paper it is called a collage. What shape did he make his coloured paper into as he stuck it down? Can they see the spiral shape of the snail's shell? Did he overlap his pieces of paper or did he leave gaps? Invite the children to make their own snail collages.



Support them as they choose the coloured paper and stick it down. Can they make it follow a spiral shape? Are they over lapping or leaving gaps? Display the finished art work next to Matisse's picture.

Name of School: _____

Year Group: _____

Date of Visit: _____

1. Was this your first school visit to Eureka! (please circle) Yes No

2. Was the Nature's Stage programme the main reason you decided to make a booking?

(please circle) Yes No

If No, what was? _____

3. How did you find out about the event? (please tick all that apply)

☐ School's What's On at Eureka! newsletter

☐ Eureka! website

☐ Suggested over the phone at the time of booking

☐ Recommended by colleague

Other, please state _____

4. Measuring impact - Please read the following statements and tick the option which most applies to you.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Impact on my children					
I feel this visit inspired my children to learn more about nature					
Eureka! is a good place to learn about science in a different way to School/Nursery					
About Me					
I learnt something new during my visit					
If we had the money, we'd like to bring our children every year					
I would recommend a visit to other teachers					

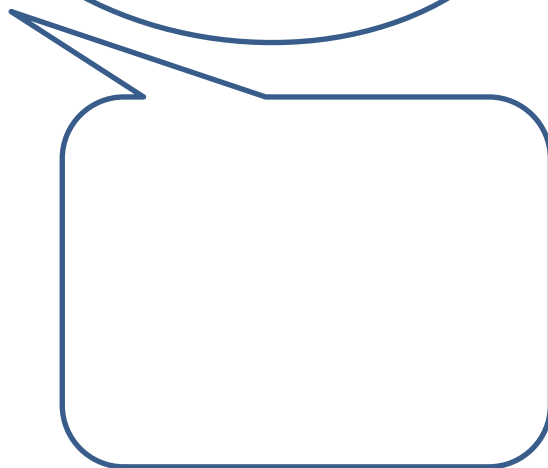
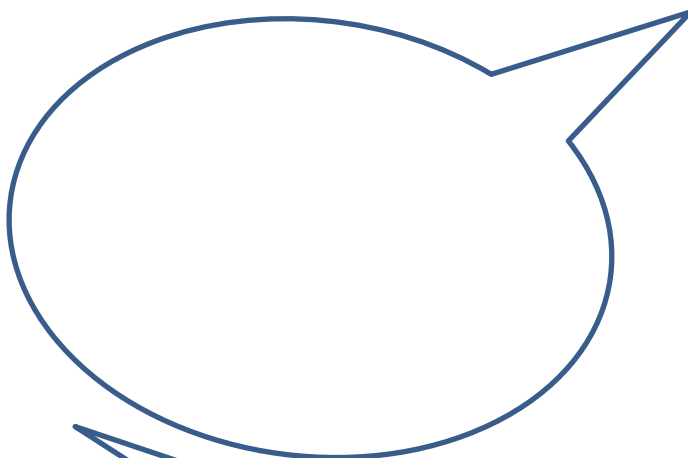
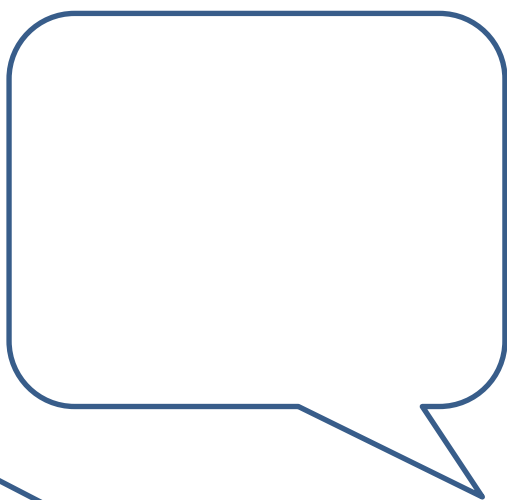
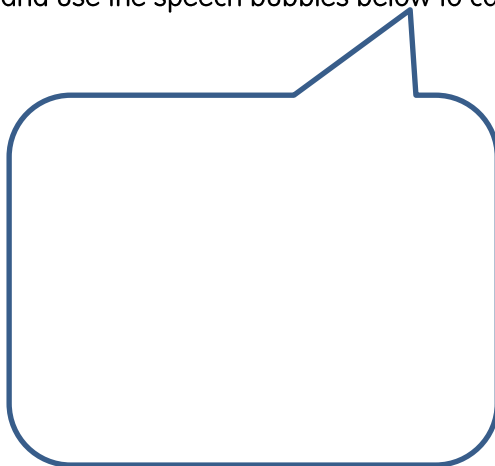
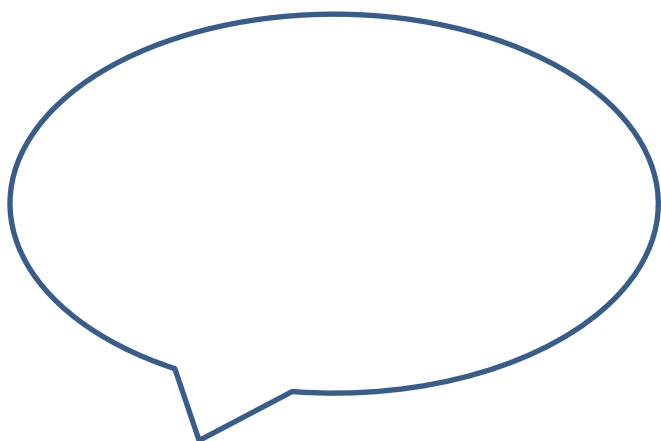
4. What did you particularly like about today?

5. Do you have any comments or suggestions that you'd like to share with us?

7. Would you book Early Years Week again? (please circle) Yes No

8. Do you have certain topics that you like to cover when out on a school trip with your children?

We'd love to hear what the children thought about the day too. As a follow-up activity the day after why not ask the children what they can remember about their visit to Eureka! and use the speech bubbles below to capture some of their thoughts.



Thank you for your comments.

Please return to: **Jenny Goodall, Play & Learning Officer**, Eureka! The National Children's Museum, Discovery Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX1 2NE