Woodlice1

Aims: To predict where woodlice like to live. To work out the conditions that woodlice prefer.

KEYSTAGE 1 Science 1: 2a, 2b, 2h, 2g | Science 2: 2e, 5a, 5b | Maths 2: 2a

It is always worth doing a site visit yourself before taking the class outdoors so, before undertaking this activity, visit the area that you are planning to use and check that woodlice are present. If woodlice are not easy to find, create potential habitats by placing stones, logs or even sheets of cardboard on the ground.

Discuss with the children what you are going to do before you leave the classroom. Despite their size, woodlice are relatively sturdy and also quite slow moving. However, it is advisable to discuss careful handling of living things prior to going out.

Before going out, make predictions about the kinds of places in which the most woodlice will be found.

Also look for woodlice in the sunlight, on small trees or in other places where they are absent to find out where woodlice choose not to live.

If you do want to look closely at the woodlice, use a magnifying jar and paintbrush, not fingers.

With your results make a simple bar chart as a class using sticky paper squares or woodlouse shapes.

Doorstep Detectives

Woodlice1

Look round your school grounds to find out where woodlice like to live.

Look: Under stones

Under a piece of wood

In damp leaves

Then choose two places of your own to look.

Fill in the chart to show how many woodlice you found in each place.

Place	Number of Woodlice
Under stones	
Under a piece of wood	
In damp leaves	

I found a total of _____ woodlice.

Circle the words below which best describe the places where woodlice like to live.

Damp	Light	Wet	Dry
Dark	Cool	Warm	Hot
Sunny	Freezing	Moist	Windy

Woodlice 2

Aims: To make predictions. To compare predictions with actual results

KEYSTAGE 1 Science 1: 1, 2a, 2b, 2g, 2h, 2i | Science 2: 1c

After looking at the habitat that woodlice prefer in the school grounds, this experiment enables the class to predict where woodlice will prefer to live in a dish in the classroom and to test this prediction.

Use the first worksheet to revise the kind of places that woodlice prefer to live.

Use a petri dish to make a choice chamber to test predictions. Start with one side of the dish damp, and the other side dry.

Each group will require 10 woodlice. Ideally children should collect their own woodlice from the school grounds.

Place the 10 woodlice in the centre of the dish and leave for 10 minutes. During this time the children could cut out from the worksheet the drawings of the dish and 10 woodlice.

When 10 minutes have passed, the children should examine where the woodlice are and record this by **sticking their paper woodlice in equivalent positions on the paper dish** to those of the real woodlice on the dish. The results could be also be recorded on a simple table or a bar chart.

To extend this experiment, repeat it with one side of the dish light and the other dark; or with different substrates such as soil and sand.

The class could then use their findings to help construct a habitat tank for the woodlice as part of a living things display.

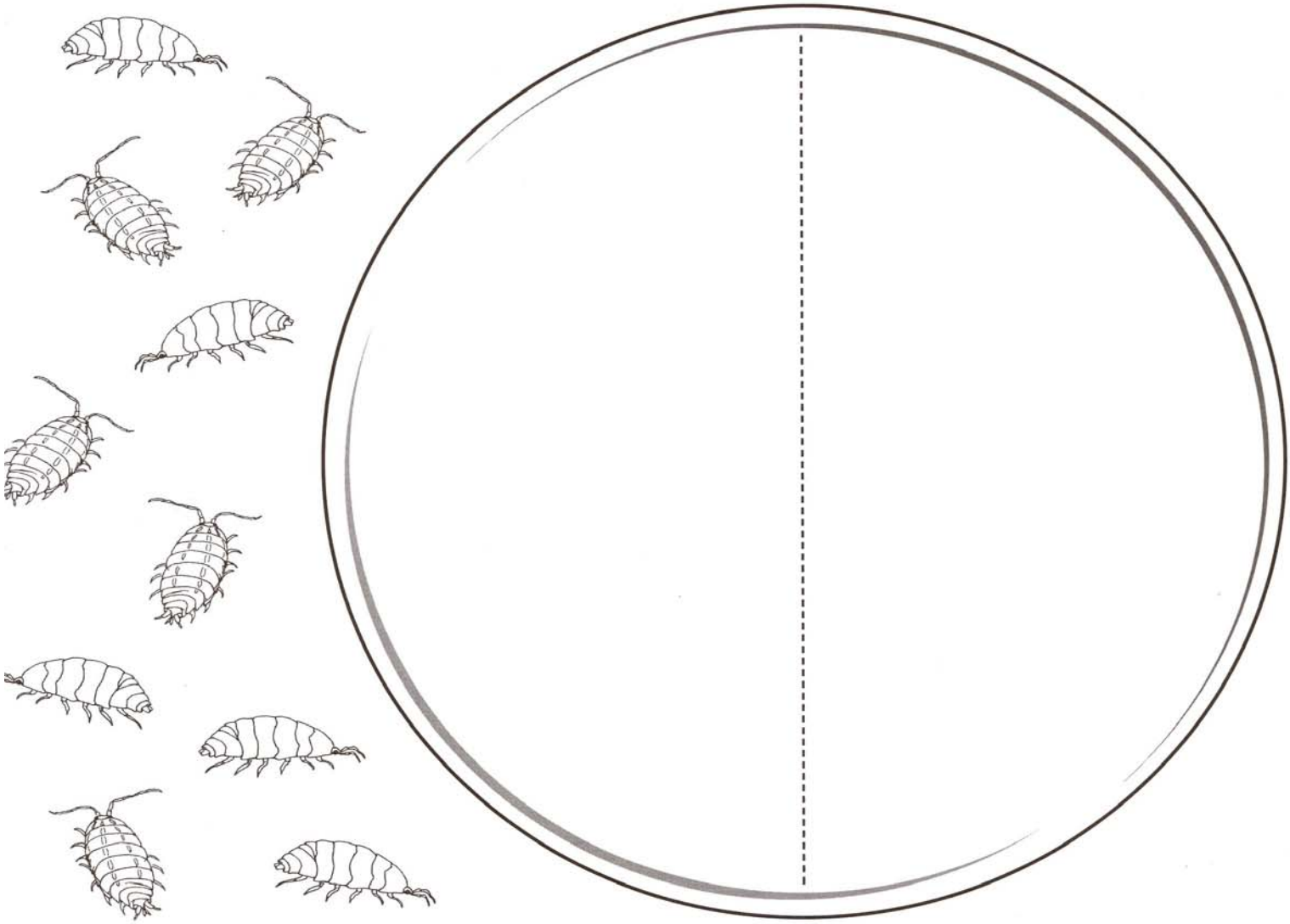
Woodlice 2

Divide the dish into two halves, one damp and one dry.

Which side of the dish do you think the woodlice will like most?

Damp **Dry**

1. Put 10 woodlice in the centre of the dish and leave them for 10 minutes.
2. Cut out the pictures of the dish and woodlice.
3. Now look at the dish. Stick your paper woodlice onto the circle below to show which side of the dish the real woodlice prefer.



Now split the dish so that one side is light and the other dark and try the test again.

Try it again with one side of the dish covered in soil and the other side covered with sand.

Woodlice 3

Aims: To accurately draw from life. To recognise different animal parts.

KEYSTAGE 1 Art:1a | Science 1: 2f | Science 2: 2a, 5a

Woodlouse Facts

Woodlice are land-living crustaceans (from the same family as crabs and prawns). There are about thirty species native to Britain and they come in a variety of colours. Woodlice have seven body segments and seven pairs of legs.

Woodlice are found in dark moist places such as under logs, leaves and in crevices during in the day. Because they also avoid light, they tend to be far more active at night when it is darker, cooler and damper.

Eggs and young woodlice are very susceptible to drying out so eggs are held in a water filled 'brood pouch' beneath the mother. After hatching, young woodlice remain in this pouch until they are old enough to fend for themselves. You may be lucky enough to see this when looking closely at woodlice through a magnifier.

A woodlouse can live for up to four years! As woodlice grow, they moult and shed their skin. They feed on decaying plant materials, which is another reason why they are found under dead logs and in leaf litter.

Woodlice have a number of predators - beetles, toads, shrews, birds, spiders and centipedes. Hiding away under logs and in crevices also helps the woodlice to avoid these.

Woodlice 3

Use a hand lens or magnifier to look closely at a woodlouse and draw a picture below.

Label: Legs Segments Antennae

How many antennae?

How many segments?

How many legs?