

Make a pitfall trap



Pitfall traps are a great way to see some of the invertebrates that crawl along the ground. This works best if you put your trap out in the evening and check it the next day. Why not use an identification guide to identify what you have found?

Equipment

Plastic cup or old margarine tub

Lolly sticks or small stones and stiff cardboard or margarine tub lid (optional)

Trowel

Catching the creatures

Find a hedge or a tree to place your pitfall trap under. Dig a small hole the size of your container and then put your container into the ground so that the top edge is level with the ground. If rain is forecast, you can make a lid to cover your pitfall trap. This could be the lid of a margarine tub, or a piece of stiff cardboard or metal. Place 3 or 4 lolly sticks or small stones around the edge of your tub and balance the lid on top.

Wait until the next morning to see what creatures have walked into your trap! Don't forget to put the creatures back once you have looked at them.

