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NATURE  
NOTES

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# Rock

Step out into your local environment or garden. Turn over rocks, logs, bricks, or flower pots and record what you find. ➡

Remember to leave the environment as you found it. WHY???????

Place a bag on the ground. Lift it after approximately a month and record your findings.



\*Do not touch spiders or centipedes!

ANIMAL	HOW MANY?	DID THEY MOVE?	WHERE DID THEY GO?
<i>slugs</i>			
<i>slaters</i>			
<i>worms</i>			
<i>pill bugs</i>			
<i>spring tails</i>			
<i>millipedes</i>			
<i>spiders</i>			
<i>other</i>			

You can also collect minibeasts by holding a white cloth below the branch of a tree. By gently shaking the branch the tiny creatures will fall onto the cloth



OR Place a bag over the branch and shake.

OR Leave an outside light on at night to attract the insects. Record the species and possibly numbers during.

- \* the first 5 minutes,
- \* after 30 minutes,
- \* after 2 hours,
- \* and in the morning.

draw their wing patterns and shapes showing colours and texture.

## Subscription Form

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3771  
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I WISH TO ORDER:

☐ subscriptions of Nature Notes for grades 4, 5 & 6 at \$3.00 for 10 issues

☐ subscriptions of Nature Probe for grades 2 & 3 at \$2.00 for 10 issues

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Nature Notes \$2.60 for 10 issues.  
Nature Probe \$1.60 for 10 issues.



# MINIBEAST HOMES



You can make a home for minibeasts by placing two car tyres on the ground. Place soil in one and soil combined with different types of leaves in the other.

After a few months see what you have 'housed'.

Perhaps you could make a minibeast corner in your school.

**YOU  
WILL  
NEED**

- Shady area.
- Take out weeds and introduce grasses.
- An old rotting log.
- Leaves (you will need to provide leaves every year.)
- A 'KEEP OUT' sign to prevent people from walking in this area.

Find evidence of minibeast homes in your school yard or garden (at home).

Here is a clue of what to look for - nibbled leaves, tracks, burrows, holes in the ground or in trees.



Leaf-curling Spider

See how many empty minibeast homes you can find. Make a collection corner in your classroom. You will find homes such as burrows, tubes, cocoons, rolled leaf homes, egg cases and webs.



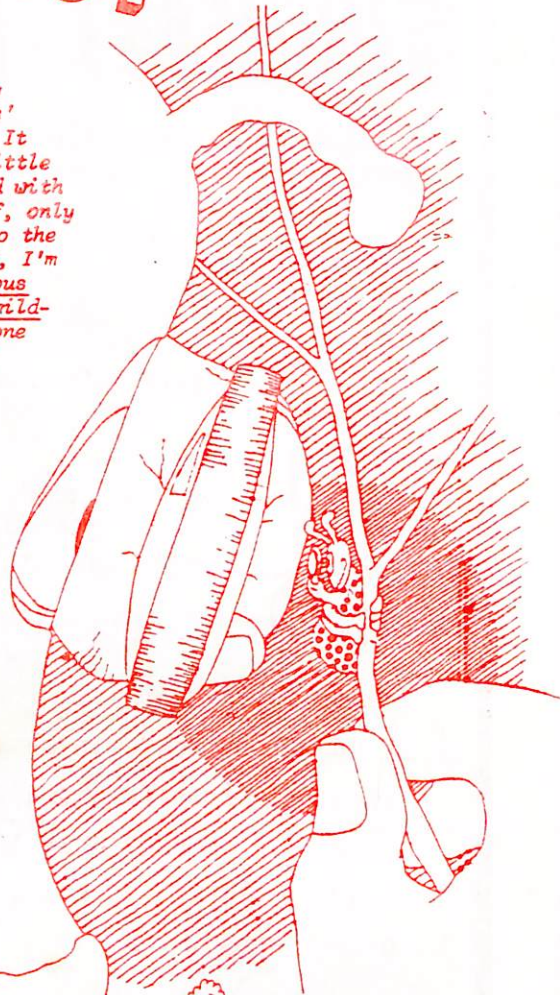
ant



caterpillar

# Have A Go!

My miniature, bizarre insect was marked with many, miniscule, maroon dots. As I watched it, this mysterious, tiny creature waved its mobile 'feelers' and wiggled its membranous wings. It was a magnificent sight when its little metallic wing covers spread wide and with some minor difficulties, it flew off, only to make a rather messy landing into the side of a nearby tree. Some people, I'm sure, would say it was a monstrous mini-beast, but to me, this very mild-mannered, microscopic marvel was one of the most interesting things I saw the entire time we were outside on our outdoor, schoolyard, field study.



- 1 Take a magnifying glass outside.
- 2 Look closely at an insect of your choosing.
- 3 Do not touch it or take it out of its environment.
- 4 Choose a letter of the alphabet and use words starting with this letter to describe your insect.
- 5 Look at the example above.



Nature Notes thanks Monsters & Mini Beasts SURVIVAL SPECIAL from the Gould League of Vic. for this activity.



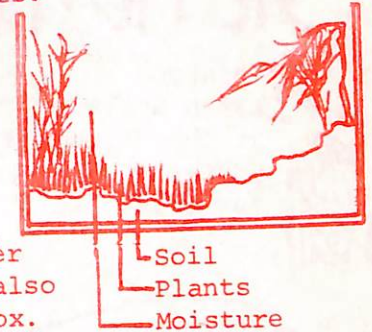
## collect

Snails are easy to obtain. Look in the garden after a rain or between the stones of old walls, under damp stones, or in the undersides of leaves.

## enclosure

Keep in a cool shady place.

1. SHORT TERM: Large jam jars or refrigerator boxes.
2. LONG TERM: An aquatic tank with cover is very convenient. See also the diagram of a snail box.



(applied with a spray.)

## Feeding

Snails will eat any fresh, green leaves. They will do most of their feeding at night, so leave the food in over night.

## cleaning

Remove droppings periodically, sprinkle soil with water to keep it moist.

## health

If the snailery becomes too dry, snails will become inactive. Their activity can be restored by gently running warm water over their shells.

## handling

Snails can withstand a fair amount of "gentle" handling.





# SNAILS *cont.* breeding

Eggs are usually laid during the summer. They are laid in hollows in damp soil in clusters of 20 - 40. After a few weeks or months. (Depending on the time of year when laid). The eggs will hatch into tiny snails. They will spend most of their time feeding.

## ACTIVITIES

Thankyou  
Karen Svalesen  
at the Melbourne Zoo  
Education Service  
for these activities.



## obstacle course

Create an obstacle course using a variety of obstacles i.e. stone, wood, pen, tubing, metal, bark, leaves. Does the snail go over all the obstacles? Which ones does he miss? Which does he go over?

## snail paths

Paste the following onto cardboard squares:  
Fabric, wood paper, gladwrap, wire mesh, sandpaper, aluminium foil.  
Which material does the snail slide over?  
Which does he stay on?  
Why doesn't he move on all surfaces?

## droppings

Find some snail droppings. What colour are they? What do they remind you of?

## light / dark

Tape some paper around half of the snail tank (front, back and sides).  
Which area do the snails prefer - light or dark?  
Why do they prefer this area?

## mystery mouth

Place a snail onto a sheet of perspex. Now hold the perspex up so you can see under the snail. Try to find its mouth. What shape is it? What do you see happening when it moves?

## heat / cold

Place some snails in a jar in a warm (NOT HOT) place. Keep atmosphere dry. Keep other snails in a cool area and maintain damp atmosphere. Leave for two days.  
Which snails are more active? Why?  
What do you notice covering the opening of the snails that are not out of their shell?



## food preferences

Try the snail on a variety of foods, i.e. cabbage, eucalypt, grass, pine needles.  
Which food does he like best?

## silvery trail

Place a snail on the floor. Can you see the trail he leaves behind? How does the snail make the trail?



## do snails breathe?

Using a magnifying glass, look at the place where the shell meets the front of the body.  
Can you see a small hole? Is it always open? What do you think it is used for?



# GO ON AN INSECT HUNT !

CAN YOU FIND THESE ANIMALS ?????

Where should you look ?????



praying mantis



weevil



termites



wasp



hawk moth



plague locust



silverfish



earwig



cockroach



house fly



mole cricket



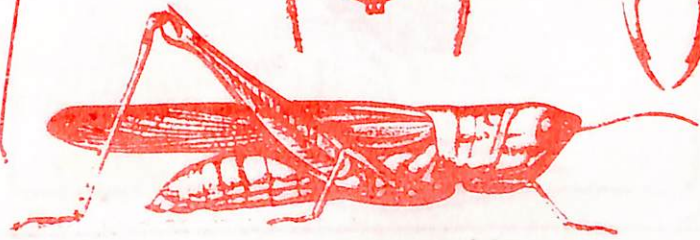
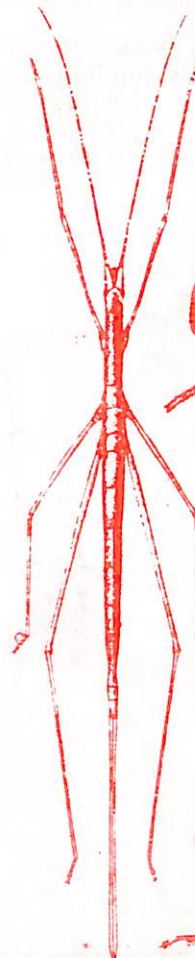
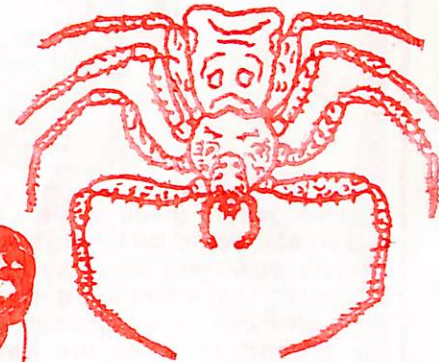
bull ant

Place some small animals in a box.  
(e.g. slaters, worms, slugs, snails)

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THEM BY **touch ?**

Colour the insects red.

Colour the spiders yellow.



# Scamper



This game gives you a chance to see what it could be like to be a spider. As you play, you must keep clear of predators, eat something to keep up your strength, and 'Scamper' across the 'ground' to reach the web on the other side of the board.

It's not as easy as it seems. To play:

Two players.

Each player makes a set of four markers, for Dunnart, Spider, Beetle and Skink (see below) and places them on the 'Start' squares on her own side of the board.

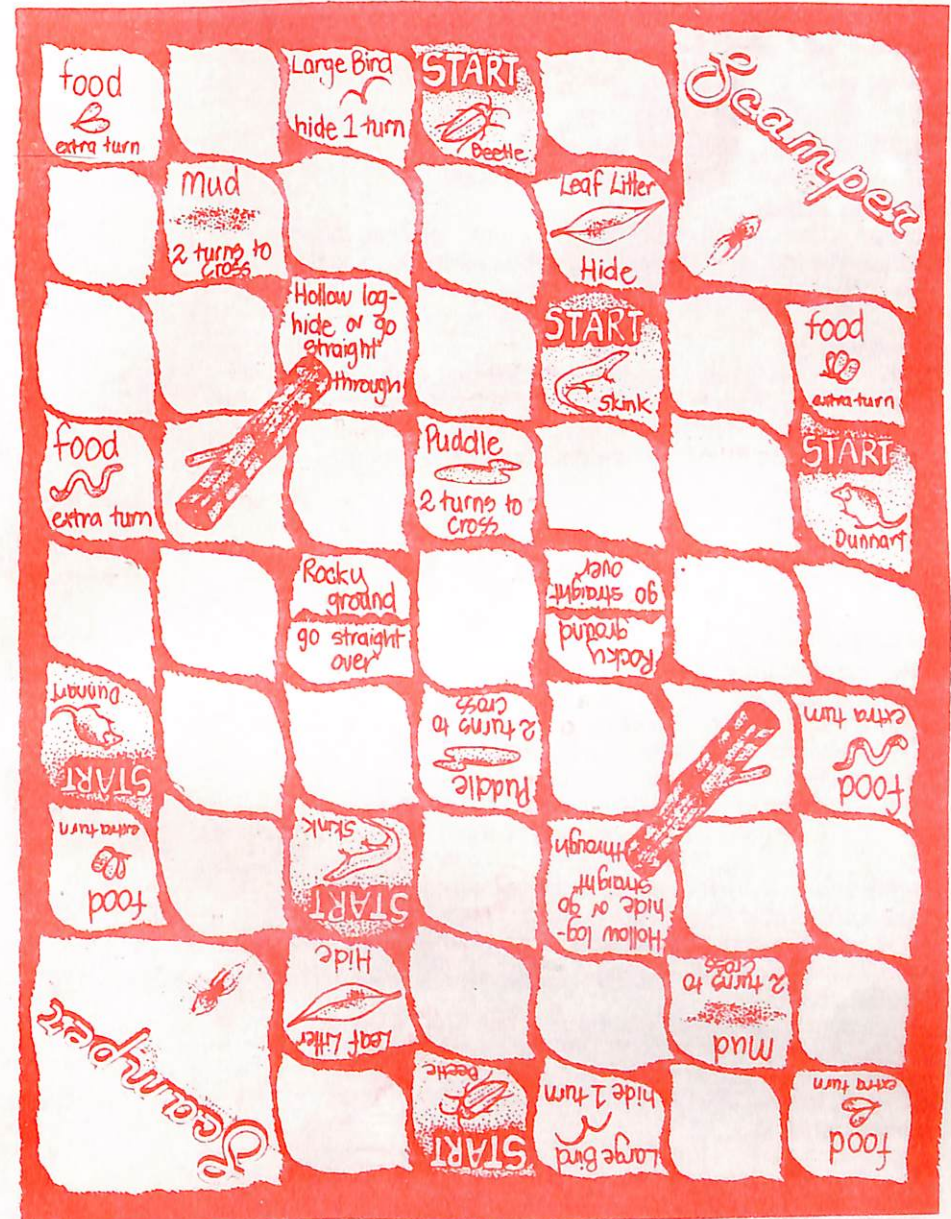
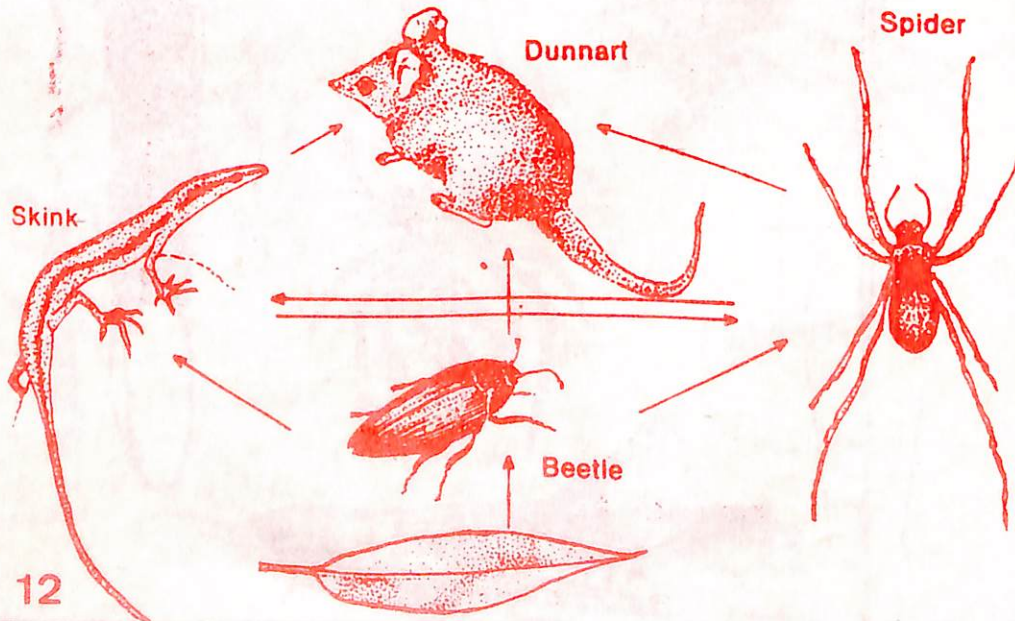
The aim is to get your spider safely into the web on the other side. Taking it in turns, you may move any animal (one

at a time) in any direction, one square at a time. As they are moved, each animal can eat or be eaten by the others as shown in the drawing below. So, you can block your opponent's spider or protect your own with the other animal markers. An animal is 'eaten' when a predator reaches its square.

Some squares show changes in ground cover which can help you or slow you down. You might like to add more, using the empty squares.

An animal is 'safe' when it is in a 'hide' square, or if it reaches the opposite square of its own sort.

The game ends when one spider reaches the opposite web corner of when both are eaten.



Thankyou JUNIOR SURVIVAL  
SPIDERS Published by  
Gould League of Victoria

# GOULD LEAGUE CLUBS

## Starting a Club.

To start a Club, all you need is two or more members (aged fourteen or younger) and an adult to be Leader. It could be in a school community group or a family.

## What you do.

Club activities include - working with animals, plants and people, doing projects and surveys, attending meetings and campouts and having the fun of discovery. They are activities that will lead to an understanding and caring for our environment.

## Gould League Club Kit.

Each child who wishes to join a Club and pays the current membership fee of \$3.50 will receive the Member's Club Kit.

Each kit contains

- 3 Member's Activity Books
- 1 Member's Award Book
- 1 Gould League Club Membership Card
- 1 Club Kit envelope to keep your books and projects in
- 2 sheets of Award Stickers
- 3 Naturalist Awards - Gould League Club Certificate
- Gould League Pennant
- Gould League Shoulder Badge

For the effective operation of a Club, it is recommended that each member has his/her own Kit. This is necessary as the booklets and awards become a personalised record of each child's progress.

## Leader's Guide.

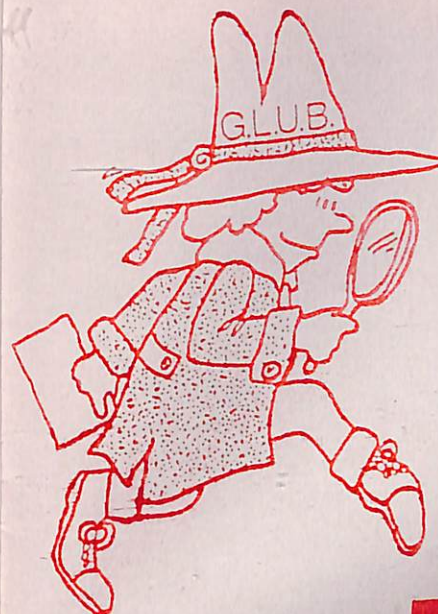
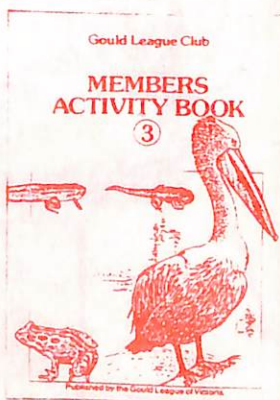
To assist in the setting up and running of a Club, a Leader's Guide is available at fifty cents per copy. As it contains essential background material and a range of extension activities, at least one per Club is necessary.

## Award scheme.

The Club material is based around a self-motivating activity award scheme. When each topic is completed, an award or naturalist title is gained. Members are free to work through the activities at their own rate, so a Club can contain children of all ages and abilities.

## Teachers.

The Gould League Club package may be particularly valuable in schools, as it is a complete unit of work in Environmental Studies and should fit well into a grade or school science program.



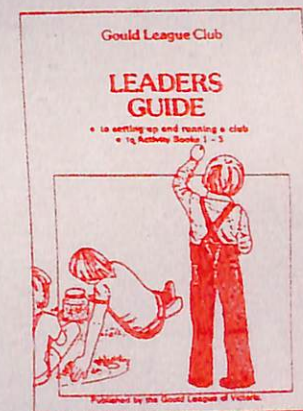
# GOULD LEAGUE CLUBS



Join a Club and become a G.L.U.B.



Gould League Undercover Bod.



## GOULD LEAGUE CLUB REGISTRATION AND ORDER FORM

CLUB NAME \_\_\_\_\_

LEADER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

Number of members requiring Club Kits \_\_\_\_\_


Number of Leaders requiring Leader's Guides \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with payment of \$3.50 for each Club Kit and 50c for each Leader's Guide ordered.

(Please do not send cash or stamps.)

Enclosed is a cheque/money order made payable to:

Gould League of Victoria,  
P.O. Box 446, 67 High St, Prahran Vic. 3181. Ph: (03) 51 1701



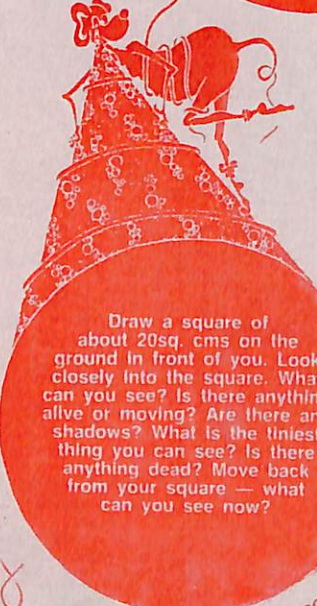
Look carefully at  
your hands, arms, legs,  
with one eye closed and very  
close up.  
Look for spots, wrinkles, colors, or  
reflections. Imagine you are a tiny  
grub stuck on the back of a hand. You  
have to get off the hand before you are  
squashed but the giant hairs are in the  
way.

THINK TALK WRITE DRAW

Look carefully at  
your hands, arms, legs,  
with one eye closed and very  
close up.

Look for spots, wrinkles, colors, or  
reflections. Imagine you are a tiny  
grub stuck on the back of a hand. You  
have to get off the hand before you are  
squashed but the giant hairs are in the  
way.

THINK TALK WRITE DRAW



Draw a square of  
about 20sq. cms on the  
ground in front of you. Look  
closely into the square. What  
can you see? Is there anything  
alive or moving? Are there any  
shadows? What is the tiniest  
thing you can see? Is there  
anything dead? Move back  
from your square — what  
can you see now?

Nature Notes acknowledges  
'Inklings' - Art Ideas For Kids.  
Thankyou for these activities  
and our cover designs.

Healesville Sanctuary Education Service  
P.O. BOX 248 HEALESVILLE 3777 Ph. (059) 62 3422