## Ground Dweller Identification Guide

E.g. Dark slug

(Arion ater)

E.g. Earwig

(Forticula auricularial)

E.g. Ground beetle

(Pterostichus melanarius)



E.g. Common rough

woodlouse

(Porcellio scaber)

Ground dwellers are the slugs, insects, centipedes and worms that live underground. They all play an important role in keeping the soil healthy so plants, like the trees in your Tiny Forest, can grow. Lift up the tiles and record all the ground dwellers you see in the ground and on the bottom of the tile. You have to be ready and get up close with the soil as some of these ground dwellers will move quickly when you lift up the tile and others are very small!

## A quick way to identify which types of ground dwellers you might be looking at are the numbers of legs. No legs How many leas do they have? More than 8 leas Do they have antenna? 6 legs 8 legs Are the legs long and thin? No Yes Is the body clearly Yes Do they have fore wings No divided in two parts? (check for a line in the middle where wings meet)? EARTHWORMS Do they have Do they have one pair of Do they have a shell? legs coming from each body Yes elbowed Yes No No segment or two pairs? antennae and a E.g. Lob Worm narrow waist? (Lumbricus errestris) Yes Two Do they have pincers? Do they have long leas Yes No LARVAE and long antennae? No One Yes MILLIPEDES No Yes SNAILS E.g. Blue bottle SPIDERS OTHER maggot REETLES (Calliphora vomitoria) E.g. Black millipede (Tachypodoiulus niger) E.a. Garden spider E.g. Garden snail (Helix aspersa) (Araneus GROUND E.g. Devil's diadematus) WOODLI(E EARWI4S coach SLU4S REETLES ANTS (ENTIPEDES horse beetle (Staphylinus OTHER olens)

E.g. Blood-red ant

(Formica sanauinea)

INVERTEBRATES

E.g. Common centipede

(Lithobius forficatus)

## Something else?

earthwatch

Here are other species you might encounter under your tiles...

## FLYING INVERTEBRATES

SOLITARY BEES



- Hairy, but less hairy than bumblebees
- Elongated shape

HONEYBEES

· Colours more muted than bumblebees

BUMBLEBEES



- Tail will be either white, red or ginger
- Very hairy!

WASPS



- · Wide and flattened hind leg often with pollen in it
- · Colour varies from bright orange striped to nearly all black

- Some wasps are very dark or very small
- Narrow waist
- · Legs are narrow all the way along

NON-INVERTEBRATES



Long and cylindrical body shape, without limbs. Smooth or keeled scales, with a shiny appearance. Eyes: often have vertical slit pupils (though some species have round pupils).



Slender and elongated body shape, with a tail. Smooth and often slimy skin, due to their aquatic nature. Four limbs. usually of equal size.

Elongated and cylindrical body shape, similar to snakes. Legless lizard, but distinguishable from snakes by the presence of vestigial limbs (hardly visible). Smooth and shiny skin. More blunt head and less fluid movement than snakes.

Telling frogs & toads apart

Toads have dry, warty skin and tend to live in drier environments. Frogs typically have smooth skin and are more often found in wet, aquatic environments.

Short, squat body with a broad head. Long, powerful hind legs designed for jumping. Smooth or slightly warty skin, usually green, brown, or grey.





Stocky and squat with short legs. Rough and warty skin, usually in shades of brown, green, or grey. Often more prominent eyes than frogs.



Small to medium-sized body shape, with a rounded hairy body and long tail. Prominent, large, and sharp incisor teeth.