

How to Make a Funnel Trap

Many invertebrates live in leaf litter, but they can be difficult to find. With a funnel trap you can make these secretive creatures come out of hiding!



STEP 1

First get yourself an empty plastic pop bottle. The two litre size ones are best for this as you can get more stuff inside. Discard the cap.

Using a pair of scissors, cut the bottle in two around the middle. If you're prone to accidents get a grown up to do this bit!



STEP 2

Turn the top half of the bottle round and fit it inside the lower half so that the narrow neck end is pointing down inside the bottom end. The bottom end of the bottle is where all your invertebrates are going to end up so it's good to make a few small breathing holes around the upper two thirds of this bit. Again watch the scissors.



STEP 3

Next take some paper and cover the whole bottle so that no light can get inside. This is to fool the invertebrates into believing they're still underground.

STEP 4

Next grab yourself a handful of damp leaf litter from outside and place this in the top half of your funnel trap. Position a desk lamp about 10cms (4 inches) above the trap, so that the heat of the lamp warms up the leaves. After a few hours any creatures in the leaf litter will move downwards, away from the heat, and will end up in the bottom of the trap. You can then simply remove the paper cover and see what you've caught. Many of the creatures you'll find can be identified at:

www.uksafari.com/creepycrawlies.htm

Remember to release all your finds back to the wild afterwards.



ABOUT THIS FACTSHEET

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