



## Mayfly in the Classroom – Volunteer Information

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Thank you for offering to be a volunteer, introducing our Mayfly in the Classroom project to our next generation!

### About us:



The Wild Trout Trust stimulates hands-on, in-the-water projects, helping others to help themselves with habitat improvement in and around rivers and lakes. Any individual or organisation caring for a wild trout population, anywhere in the UK or Ireland, can call on the Trust for practical help, advice and support.

We are a conservation charity that focuses on practical work to improve habitat for trout across the UK and Ireland. Although we have few staff, we have a big impact because we work with grass roots organisations (fishing clubs, local community and conservation groups) and landowners to give them the inspiration, advice and practical skills to improve and maintain their lake or river for the benefit of trout and all wildlife.

Most of our members, supporters and staff are fishermen, but we are not a fishing organisation.

We simply love wild trout and the rivers they live in; the trout are an indicator that much in and around the river is well. We want to make sure that trout and all that they stand for are there for future generations.

Our approach to habitat and ecosystems is based on science and refined by experience of the practical application of habitat improvements. We have considerable expertise on our own staff, and we are supported by a group of advisors who form our science 'knowledge network'. Our publications reflect this approach of combining sound science with practical and cost effective application to the real world.

**But** it is the future generations that are most important, their engagement with the environment and their interest in the future of our rivers is vital. We have a small project which is aimed at that initial engagement point and will hopefully capture children's imagination and lead us to river keepers, conservationist and fishermen of the future; that project is called "Mayfly in the Classroom".

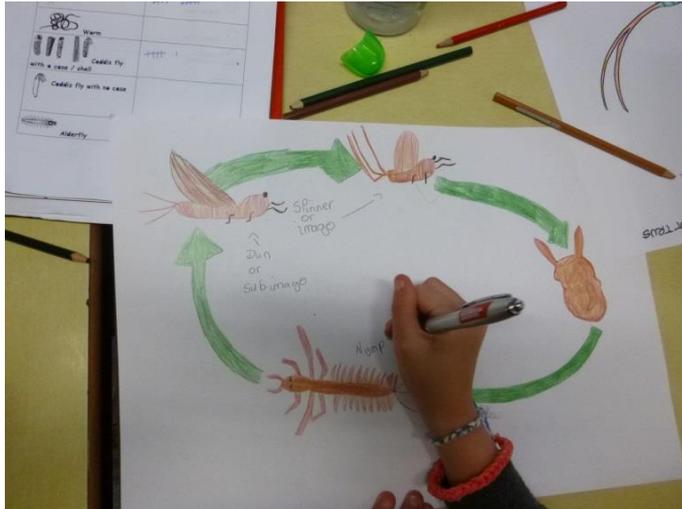




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### Mayfly in the Classroom Project:

Children enjoy the natural world and are often fascinated by the creatures that live in it. Our project offers children the chance to visit their local river / stream and discover the variety of small creatures that live beneath the water. That is fascinating enough, but they can go on to take a few mayfly nymphs back to the classroom with them with an aim to hatch them out and release them back into the wild.



Children can:

- spend a morning kick sampling and discovering all the wonderful creatures that live in the river
  - have a chance to identify the invertebrates they find, using keys (and your expertise)
  - look at invertebrate differences and similarities and how they have developed for their environment
  - understand terms such as habitat, life cycles
- be involved in the setting up of the equipment which will become the mayfly's home in the classroom
  - care for them on a daily basis by making sure the water doesn't get too warm and checking water levels
  - spot when they hatch and prepare them for release
  - learn about the wonderful lifecycle and terrestrial environment that a mayfly has and the importance of this little fly for our rivers.





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### What would a volunteer do?

A volunteer could support a day for their local school. Go with the school teacher and helpers in the morning to the river / stream with the children and lead a kick sampling and identification session.

In the afternoon, back in the classroom, help the children set up their mayfly housing and revisit the mayfly life cycle with the children.

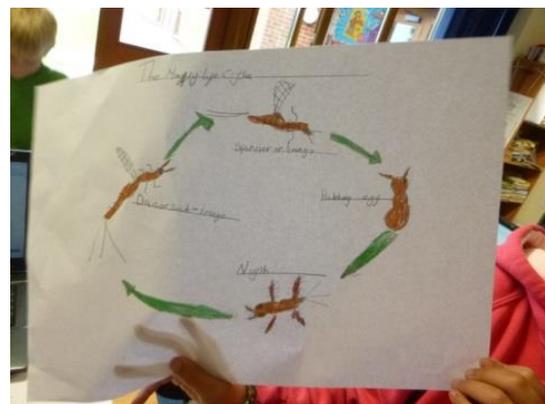


Once the housing is set up, you may like to pop back to the school to see what success they have had and advise on how the children are looking after their mayflies.

### Support for volunteers

We have comprehensive support information on our website including risk assessments and a lesson plan. You would have our support by phone and email for training and guidance on the project. You should not be expected to run the whole session without a teacher; you are there as a guide for the teacher who is in charge throughout. When you contact your local school (s) make this clear: you are bringing your love for and expertise in the river; the school will still be providing the teacher (and possibly additional staff and volunteers) who are in charge of the class.

Additionally we would support with locating or sending through equipment needed for the project. As long as we gain funding we will provide a 'Mayfly in the Classroom' box for each supported school.





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Some of the links available:

<http://www.wildtrout.org/content/mayfly-classroom> This is the main project page where all the information is held, including past project information, activity ideas, fantastic video about the project and all set up and recording documents.

<http://www.wildtrout.org/sites/default/files/projects/MIC%20assembly%20instructions%20A.pdf>

PDF document with all the basic assembly details, easy to print off or we can provide.

<http://www.wildtrout.org/sites/default/files/projects/primary%206%20amazing%20mayfly%20facts>.

PDF document with a few amazing facts about Mayfly, again easy to print off or we can provide to use and a lesson plan are available.

<http://www.field-studies-council.org/>

Field Studies website which has lots of information about the outdoors, as well as excellent identification sheets for many aquatic, and non-aquatic, species.

<https://www.buglife.org.uk/>

Bug Life also has lots of information about aquatic invertebrates, amongst other species.

<http://www.riverflies.org/>

River Fly website offers lots of information on aquatic invertebrate species identification.

<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/>

find your local wildlife trust through the main website

