Investigate activity plan suggestion

Here are some suggested timings for how you might like to run a Investigate session.

**3 minutes: Investigate at School:** [**Introduction video**](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/schools/teaching-resources/investigate-at-school-primary.html)

Find out more about what the activity involves. This video is suitable for the whole class.

**5 minutes: Discussion**

Class discussion – 'What sort of natural objects in your school, playground or home could be specimens?'

(NB pretty much anything could be a specimen, but you may want to focus on natural objects or another type of object to tie into learning themes.)

**10 mins:** [**Specimen collection**](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/schools/teaching-resources/investigate-at-school-primary/select-a-specimen.html)

To set as homework or during a trip to the playground. Pupils collect something from nature that interests them. Remind pupils to be careful of spikey or harmful objects and watch out for nettles. Encourage pupils to find specimens from the ground rather than pick any from living plants.

Alternatively, decide to study virtual specimens from the [Museum’s Sketchfab profile](https://sketchfab.com/NHM_Imaging/models).

**3 minutes: Investigate at School:** [**Top tips video**](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/schools/teaching-resources/investigate-at-school-primary/investigate.html)

Hear some top tips on how to investigate your specimens from Museum educators in this video for the whole class.

**25 minutes: Investigate!**

Class investigates specimens using available resources and recording sheets. Teachers/educators can prompt investigations with questions from the [Investigate Toolkit](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/schools/teaching-resources/investigate-at-school-primary/investigate.html), focusing on scientific skills of observation, asking questions and looking for evidence.

**10 minutes:** [**Share**](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/schools/teaching-resources/investigate-at-school-primary/share.html)

Class shares their investigations with each other and describe what they saw, noticed and wondered about the specimens. Adults can choose to share any work with the Museum’s learning team on Twitter @NHM\_Learn. Work submitted may be included in the virtual gallery for other pupils to view.

**3 minutes: Investigate at School:** [**Share video**](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/schools/teaching-resources/investigate-at-school-primary/share.html)

Class watches this video to hear some discoveries from Museum educators. Pupils and teachers can also browse through the virtual gallery to see what others have discovered.