



GREEN-SCHOOLS STAY HOME - WATER



Idea - Create a Caddisfly Case

Caddisflies (Trichoptera) are a group of insects with mostly aquatic (live in or near water) larvae and terrestrial (land based) adults. There are approximately 14,500 described species in the world and 154 known to be found in Ireland.

The life cycle of a caddisfly is: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. The adults look like moths but with hairy wings that they fold back over their body. The caddisfly larvae which live underwater can swim freely but most make one of the following:

- web/net between stones in running water to catch food
- fixed tubes made from sand and other particles held together by silk
- dome-shaped enclosures of silk
- protective cases made from material they find around them like stones, sand, leaves and tiny sticks which are stuck together with silk. This silk that acts like glue for the larva is secreted (released) from glands (an organ) around its mouth.

Caddisflies (adults and larvae) are a very important food source for a lot of different types of predators. For example, the Atlantic Salmon, Brown Trout, lizards, frogs, spiders, dragonflies, birds (e.g. Dipper) and bats. Some species of caddisfly are also very sensitive to water pollution so can be an indicator (show) of good water quality.

To help caddisflies and the creatures that rely on them, we can protect where they live by looking after our rivers, lakes and ponds.



FACT!
A FRENCH ARTIST HAS CREATED ART PIECES BY PROVIDING CADDISFLY LARVAE WITH SMALL GRAINS OF GOLD AND PRECIOUS STONES FOR THEM TO BUILD INTO DECORATIVE CASES.

Create a Caddisfly Case

Have fun creating a colourful case for your caddisfly!

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

- Empty toilet paper roll
- Paper/crepe paper
- Marker and colouring pencils/crayons and/or paint with paint brushes and a jar with water
- Child friendly scissors or adults help
- Sellotape
- Pipe cleaners (if you have them, great but if not, paper or even sticks can be used)
- Optional material to stick on case: natural material from outside e.g. sticks, leaves and/or unwanted material from your home e.g. cut up pieces of cloth, plastic etc.

WHAT TO DO...

1) Get your empty toilet paper roll (caddisfly case) and decorate it with whatever you have in your house or have collected from outside (like a caddisfly using what it finds around it to make its case). Cut a circle of paper slightly larger than the opening of the roll, decorate and sellotape it on to one end. Bunch up some paper/crepe paper for the head. **Tip:** pre-painted paper bunches up easier.



2) Get a pipe cleaner or roll a piece of paper into a tight sausage shape. Cut the pipe cleaner or rolled paper into 6 pieces (2 large, 2 medium and 2 small) and sellotape onto the inside of the open end of the roll (like the image opposite). Draw a face on the bunched up paper using a marker. **Tip:** make sure the paint is fully dry (if used) before drawing face.

3) Place the bunched up paper face into the opening and admire your creations!



CONCLUSION...

Did you enjoy making a caddisfly case? Do you see rivers and flies differently now? Can you remember one fact about caddisflies? Maybe you could make other cases using different material. Would you like to learn more about caddisflies? If so, you could go to one of the following websites:
<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/invertebrates/other-insects/caddisfly>
<https://blog.nationalgeographic.org/2012/07/20/caddisflies-freshwater-species-of-the-week/>
 and watch a video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3BHzDHoYo>

Thanks for taking part,
keep checking back for
more tips, experiments &
activities with
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