NATURE’S RECYCLERS

In Autumn the ground begins to turn into a colourful mix of yellow, orange, and golden brown. Leaves are falling from the trees.

Have you ever wondered what the fate of a fallen leaf is? Without recycling invertebrates, leaves would pile up and become very smelly!

Dead leaf delicacy

Look closely and you may spot holes in a fallen leaf... the invertebrates have been snacking! They break leaves down into smaller pieces, with the help of fungi and bacteria too. This process of decomposition releases nutrients from the leaf, back into the soil, helping plants to grow.

A hideaway habitat

When leaves and twigs fall on to the ground and gather in piles, we call it leaf litter. Leaf litter creates the perfect damp habitat for many invertebrates to call home. It acts as a sheltered hiding spot for creatures such as spiders, snails, beetles, worms, and many more.

Are you inspired by the warm colours of autumn?

How about creating your own autumnal masterpiece using leaves that have fallen. You can use the ground as your canvas!

We would love to see your leaf art creations! Share them with us on @MissionInvertebrate on Facebook and Instagram, and @MoreThanBugs on Twitter!

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