

**TOP TIP**

Paper straws are more eco-friendly than plastic straws. If you have any leftover plastic straws, however, this is a good way to use them up. Be sure to recycle them.

# Make a bug catcher



Get to know your local bug life with a handy homemade device, called a pooter.

**What you need**

- A small see-through plastic container with a tight-fitting lid
- Scissors
- A straw
- Some light cloth
- An elastic band
- Plasticine or Blu Tack

**How does it work?**

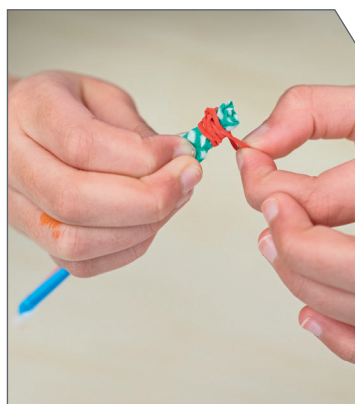
Pooters are an essential tool for anyone wanting to get up close to a minibeast. They are simple to make and extremely effective. Sucking carefully through the long straw at the top of the pooter reduces the pressure inside the container. This makes air rush in through the short straw. Put the short straw close to a small bug and it will be sucked into the container. Don't worry – thanks to the cloth filter over the end of the long straw, there is no chance of your accidentally swallowing the critter. Once you've had a look at it, be sure to release any bug or beetle you catch in the spot where you found it.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Pooters, which are also called aspirators, were invented in the 1920s by Frederick William Poos Jr. The device is named in his honour.



**1** Ask an adult to help you make one straw-sized hole in the base of the plastic container. Make another hole in the centre of the lid.



**2** Cut off the bottom quarter of the straw. Wrap a small piece of cloth around one end of the longer section. Secure it tightly with an elastic band.



**3** Push this longer section through the hole in the lid, so the covered end is in the container. Push the short section through the base of the pot.



**4** Seal the gaps around the straws with plasticine or Blu Tack. Do this on both sides of the container. Now, you're ready to go on a bug hunt.

RSPB