

Parent Information

Put on your coat and wellies and let's head outside on a minibeast hunt.

This term, we'll head to a wetland or woodland to identify minibeasts in their natural habitat. We'll write a guide book for other children to use on a minibeast hunt, draw sketch maps of our minibeast hunting area and create minibeast stories and poems. Heading out into the local area, we'll explore trees and bushes to see what lives there, investigate how far and how fast a snail can travel and create a minibeast habitat of our own. We'll draw delicate sketches of minibeasts, make models from a variety of materials and use microscopes to observe minibeasts up close. Our ICT skills will help us create a minibeast animation and we'll observe a beehive through live webcam footage.

A special assembly at the end of our project will give us the chance to share our knowledge. We'll create a PowerPoint presentation, use scientific vocabulary to explain what we have learnt, display our artwork and perform our minibeast poems with musical accompaniment.

Help your child prepare for their project

Minibeasts are fascinating. Why not have a minibeast hunt around your local area? Look out for different minibeasts, take close-up photos and use an app or spotting book to identify any unknown creatures. Alternatively, visit a local museum to see if they have any insect specimens on display. Huge moths, colourful butterflies and armoured beetles are all amazing to see. You could also invent minibeasts of your own. Draw, paint or make models of new minibeasts, then give them a name and describe their special features.

Suggested text: [The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#) - Eric Carle; [Mad About Minibeasts](#) - Giles Andreae; [Aaaarrgghh, Spide](#) Lydia Monks; [The Bad-Tempered Ladybird](#) - Eric Carle; [The Very Busy Spider](#) - Eric Carle; [The Very Greedy Bee](#) - Steve Smallman; [Bee & Me](#) - Alison Jay

Memorable experience Minibeast hunt

Innovate challenge Minibeast life cycle animation

English Lists and leaflets; Instructions; Reviews and information texts; Poetry; Writing for different purposes

Science Habitats; Animals, including humans; Working scientifically

A&D Observational drawing; Model making

Computing Creating and debugging programs; Algorithms; Uses of ICT beyond school; Stop motion animation; Logical reasoning; Presentations

D&T Origins of food; Selecting natural materials

Geography Fieldwork

Music Play tuned and untuned instruments

PE Dance

PSHE Feeling positive

Science investigations Do insects have a favourite colour? Do snails have noses? What is the life cycle of the ladybird? What do snails live?

Home learning ideas - What will you choose to do?

- Go on a minibeast safari to find out what creatures live in your local environment.
- Take photographs and draw the minibeasts that you find, then identify them using your previous knowledge, books and the internet. You could also keep a tally of how many of each minibeast you find and use squared paper to draw a bar chart of your results.
- Choose a favourite minibeast and write sentences about its habitat. How does its habitat provide what the minibeast needs to survive?
- With an adult, use the internet to research amazing minibeasts found in other parts of the world, such as the Borneo walking stick or the Goliath beetle. Make an information poster to showcase the facts and information that you find.
- Write a list of adjectives to describe what spiders look like and a list of verbs to describe what spiders do. Use your word lists to write six sentences about spiders. Draw a diagram of a spider and label its features.
- Draw a detailed sketch of a minibeast using pen or pencil. Use information books, online images or first-hand observation as inspiration.
- Write a set of instructions to teach others how to care for a chosen minibeast. Use imperative verbs, such as give, clean and take at the start of your sentences. Give your instructions a title, such as 'How to care for a worm' or 'How to keep a spider'.
- Use natural and man-made materials to make a minibeast hotel. Create small holes, tunnels and dark spaces for the minibeasts to hide. Put your minibeast hotel outside and leave it for a few days, then carefully observe to see if any minibeasts have moved in.
- Use information books and the internet to find out about the life cycle of a butterfly. Draw a diagram to show the stages in the right sequence. Write a sentence about what is happening at each stage.
- Use your knowledge of camouflage to design and make a 3-D model of a minibeast. Collect and use natural materials, such as leaves, twigs and bark, and a range of craft materials, including googly eyes, pipe cleaners and coloured pom poms. Place your creature outside in its natural habitat and take photos with a camera or tablet.

