

Minibeasts

Vocabulary

Big Question: How can we care for a minibeast?

Minibeasts have lots of names. They can be called bugs and creepy crawlies but they can also be called invertebrates. This means they are creatures with no backbone. These include insects, spiders, beetles, snails, worms, centipedes etc. There are 25,000 different types of invertebrate living in the UK!

Insects

There are lots of different types of insects including beetles, ants, butterflies. Insects have six legs and an exoskeleton, which is their hard shell on the outside of their body. An adult insect's body is split into 3 parts: head, thorax and abdomen. Most insects have two pairs of wings.



Spiders

Spiders are not insects. They are arachnids. They make webs to live in and can catch their own food. Spiders have 8 legs and only two parts to their body.



When you pick up a minibeast, remember to be respectful, they are living creatures.

Magnifying glass

We use a magnifying glass or bug collector to observe mini beasts more closely, it makes them look bigger.

Slither

The way a worm moves on and under the ground.

Wormery

A home (habitat) for worms.

Bristles

These are the tiny hairs on a minibeast's body.

Vibrations

This describes a motion of moving quickly back and forth e.g. for example when you hit two cymbals together, they vibrate.



KEY CONCEPT

Nature

Understanding the complexities and features of the natural world, including the plant and animal species that inhabit it.



Earthworms

Worms are another type of mini beast. They are not an insect or an arachnid. They are annelids which have a soft body which is made up of identical segments which look like rings. Worms like living in damp soil and build tunnels underground. You can sometimes see worms above the ground after it has rained. Worms don't have eyes, they feel vibrations instead. They move by using their bristles and muscles.



You must wash your hands after handling minibeasts because they may have germs.

Plants

Minibeasts rely on plants for food and/or shelter. We can grow our own flowers and plants, which in turn can provide us with food. Many plants grow from seeds. Seeds need water, sunlight and nutrients from the soil to grow.



Vocabulary

Seeds

A seed has the beginnings of a new plant inside it. When the conditions are right, the seed soaks up water and swells, and the tiny new plant bursts out of its shell.

Planting

Putting plants/seeds/bulb into soil which can be in the ground or in a plant pot.

Nutrients

Plants take these from the soil using their roots as they need nutrients to grow.

Damp

When you water plants, you need the soil to be damp (slightly wet) as over watering is bad for a plant.

