



A bug, a creepy-crawly, a beast. He'll tickle your skin then go in for the sting. Arachnids, insects, molluscs and myriapods, hiding in nooks and beneath darkened rocks. Come search for these minibeasts, and let's sort them out. How many legs? How many wings? Who does it eat and who eats it? Can you classify it? Can you draw it or make it? Build a bug hotel or a wonderful wormery, then watch them wriggle and burrow, mixing earth as they go. Discover where in the world you'll find the deadliest beasts. Perhaps the *Vespa mandarinia japonica* is the one that you fear? Why not become a beast creator? Selectively breed a killer predator that saves the world from the super strong aphid. You'll be a hero.

## Minibeasts

A minibeast is a small animal without a spine. The scientific name for an animal without a spine is invertebrate. To protect their soft bodies, some minibeasts have developed a hard, outer shell. This is called an exoskeleton.



## Habitats

Minibeasts live in different habitats all over the world. Many live in microhabitats, such as rock pools, bushes, under logs and among leaf litter. These microhabitats provide food, shelter and protection. Some minibeasts create their own homes. Bees create a honeycomb to store food and raise young. Wasps make nests from chewed wood and saliva.

## Help your child prepare for their topic!

Welcome to the wonderful world of minibeasts! Why not visit a local park or woodland to go on a minibeast hunt? Take plenty of photos and use an app or spotting guide to identify different creatures. You could also visit a butterfly house and create beautiful butterfly patterns back at home. Alternatively, find a book about brilliant bugs to read together.

## Protection

Many minibeasts have developed ways to protect themselves from predators. Some use warning colours, camouflage, mimicry or play dead. Others have developed stings, bites or give off an odour as a form of defence.



Science	Data can be recorded and displayed in different ways, including tables, bar and line charts, classification keys and labelled diagrams.
	A method is a set of clear instructions for how to carry out a scientific investigation. A prediction is a statement about what might happen in an investigation based on some prior knowledge or understanding.
	Food chains show what animals eat within a habitat and how energy is passed on over time. All food chains start with a producer, which is typically a green plant. The producer is eaten by a primary consumer (prey), which is eaten by a secondary consumer (prey), which is eaten by a tertiary consumer. All food chains end with a top or apex predator. Changes within a food chain, such as an abundance or lack of one food type, have an impact on the entire food chain.
	Population changes in a habitat can have significant consequences for food chains and webs.
	A life cycle is the series of changes in the life of a living thing and includes these basic stages: birth, growth, reproduction and death. Mammals' life cycles include the stages: embryo, juvenile, adolescent and adult. Amphibians' life cycles include the stages: egg, larva (tadpole), adolescent and adult. Some insects' (butterflies, beetles and bees) life cycles include the stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. Birds' life cycles include the stages: egg, baby, adolescent and adult.
	Reproduction is the process of producing offspring and is essential for the continued survival of a species. There are two types of reproduction: sexual and asexual. Sexual reproduction involves two parents (one female and one male) and produces offspring that are different from the parents. Asexual reproduction involves one parent and produces offspring that is identical to the parent.
Geography	Secondary data includes information gathered by geographical reports, surveys, maps, research, books and the internet.
	Geographical data, such as demographics or economic statistics, can be used as evidence to support conclusions.
	Aerial photography is used in cartography, land-use planning and environmental studies. It can be used alongside maps to find out detailed information about a place, or places.
Art	Preliminary sketches and models are usually simple line drawings or trial pieces of sculpture that are created to explore ideas and techniques and plan what a final piece of art will look like.
Music	Performing: The song Jerusalem is the bass for looking at changes throughout time. Children are given the opportunity to compose and perform music inspired by their local community, past and present
PE	Multi-skills: Invaders
	Games:
IT	Digital Programmer: Programming
DT	Materials should be cut and combined with precision. For example, pieces of fabric could be cut with sharp scissors and sewn together using a variety of stitching techniques.