



Busy Busy Learning Resources

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Busy Busy Learning
Resource Library



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Busy Busy Learning
Exploring Nature with Children
Basic Equipment List



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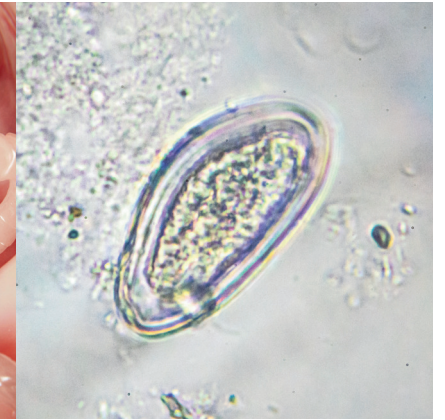
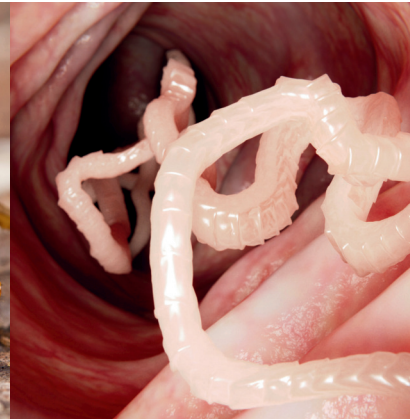
Busy Busy Learning Minibeast Resource Tips

- Talk about the different minibeast images. Have you seen any of these before? Where have you seen them? What do you notice?
- Match the minibeast image to the name of the minibeast. You could cut out and physically match or just cross off the word when you find them.
- Discuss the key vocabulary together. What do you already know about these words?
- Look at the different types of minibeasts sheet. You could hide the examples by folding back that side of the sheet and once you have read the description think of your own minibeasts that would fit.
- A Venn diagram helps to sort information by showing the relationship between different items/ categories. Use the example categories or make up your own. TIP: If you print the minibeast images fitting two sheets to a page you will be able to fit more in your Venn circles. You can always stack the images if preferred.

Minibeast Images



Minibeast Images



Minibeast Names

match the image with the name

ladybird	butterfly	woodlouse	grasshopper	starfish
snail	bee	fly	slug	anemone
ant	worm	caterpillar	urchin	moth
crab	centipede	scorpion	tapeworm	pinworm
dragonfly	millipede	jellyfish	tick	shrimp
beetle	earwig	coral	leech	spider

What is a Minibeast and Other Terms?

key vocabulary

Minibeast - A minibeast is a term commonly used to describe small invertebrates, especially those found in gardens, forests, or other natural environments. These creatures don't have a backbone and include insects (like ants, butterflies, and beetles), spiders, worms, snails, slugs, and other tiny creatures.

Minibeasts play essential roles in ecosystems. They help with processes like pollination, decomposition, and providing food for other animals.

Invertebrate - An invertebrate is an animal that does not have a backbone or spinal column. Invertebrates make up the majority of animal species on Earth and include many diverse groups such as insects, spiders, molluscs, worms, and jellyfish.

Exoskeleton - An exoskeleton is a hard, external (outside) skeleton that provides support and protection to an animal's body. Unlike an internal (inside) skeleton, or endoskeleton, which is found in vertebrates (animals with backbones), the exoskeleton is located on the outside of the body.

Ecosystem - An ecosystem is a community of living organisms (plants, animals, and microorganisms) interacting with each other and their physical environment (such as air, water, and soil). Ecosystems can be terrestrial (land-based) or aquatic (water-based).

Pollination - Pollination is the process by which pollen is transferred from the male part (anther) of a flower to the female part (stigma) of the same or another flower, enabling fertilisation to occur. This process is crucial for the reproduction of flowering plants, leading to the production of seeds and fruit.

Decomposition - Decomposition is the natural process by which dead organic matter, such as plants, animals, and other organisms, is broken down into simpler forms of matter.

Types of Minibeast

Category	Description	Examples
Insects	Six legs, body divided into three parts (head, thorax, abdomen); often have wings and antennae.	Beetles, Butterflies, Ants, Bees, Grasshoppers
Arachnids	Eight legs, body divided into two parts (cephalothorax and abdomen); no wings or antennae.	Spiders, Scorpions, Mites, Ticks
Myriapods	Long, segmented bodies with many legs.	Centipedes (one pair of legs per segment), Millipedes (two pairs of legs per segment)
Crustaceans	Mostly aquatic; hard exoskeletons, multiple legs and antennae.	Woodlice, Crabs, Lobsters, Shrimp
Molluscs	Soft, unsegmented bodies; many have shells.	Snails, Slugs, Octopi
Annelids	Segmented worms that live in moist environments.	Earthworms, Leeches
Nematodes	Unsegmented roundworms; often microscopic.	Hookworms, Pinworms, Free-living soil nematodes
Platyhelminthes	Flatworms with soft, simple bodies.	Tapeworms, Planarians
Coelenterates (Cnidarians)	Aquatic invertebrates with stinging cells; simple bodies with a single opening.	Jellyfish, Sea Anemones, Corals, Hydras
Echinoderms	Marine animals with radial (arranged or having parts arranged like rays) symmetry, spiny skin, and tube feet; internal skeleton.	Starfish, Sea Urchins, Sea Cucumbers, Brittle Stars

Venn Diagram

category 1

category 2

Venn Diagram

sorting category ideas

terrestrial (land based)	aquatic (water based)	legs
no legs	shell	no shell
wings	no wings	insect
not insect	mollusc	teeth

Add a category to each side of your Venn diagram. Pick a minibeast and then decide whether it fits into just the first category on the left, just the second category on the right, it may fit in both categories and go in the middle overlapping circles or it may sit outside the circles and not fit any category.

Venn Diagram

blank for your own sorting
