



Wriggle and Crawl

Minibeasts

A minibeast, or invertebrate, is a small creature. There are thousands of different minibeasts in the United Kingdom. These include ladybirds, snails, spiders and woodlice.

Habitats

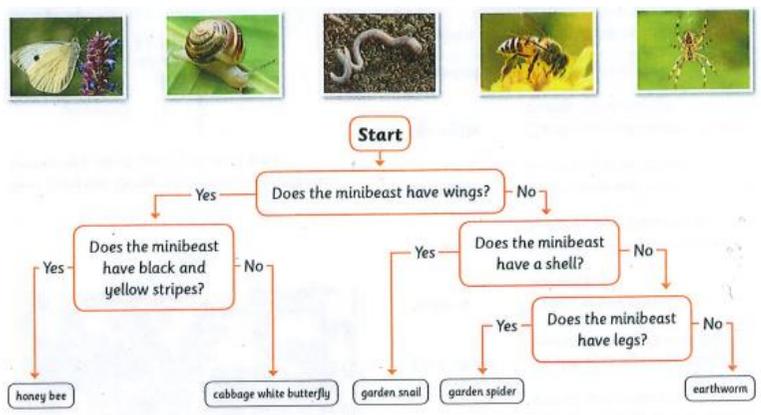
A habitat is a place where plants and animals live. Habitats must have everything the plants and animals need to survive, including water, air, food and shelter. Animals are adapted to survive in the habitat in which they live.



Some minibeasts live in microhabitats. A microhabitat is a small habitat. Under a log or stone can be a micro habitat.

Identifying Minibeasts

Minibeasts can be identified and grouped by their features, such as colour, shape, the number of legs they have or their body parts. A key can help us to identify minibeasts. An example is provided below. Choose one of the pictures, and answer the questions in the key to identify the minibeast.



Protection and defence.

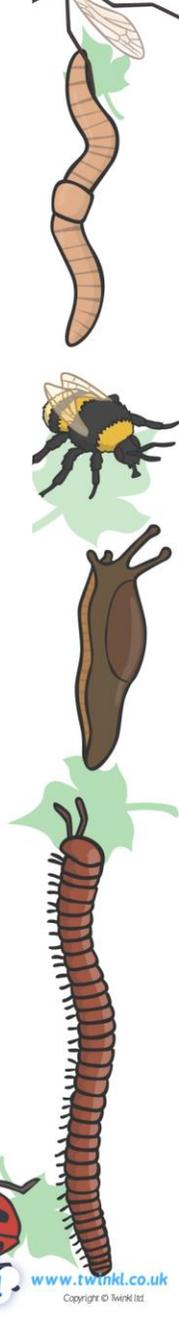
Minibeasts use different ways to protect and defend themselves from predators that want to eat them. They may use camouflage, mimicry, warning colours or play dead to trick predators. Some minibeasts use stings, bites or sprays to protect themselves.

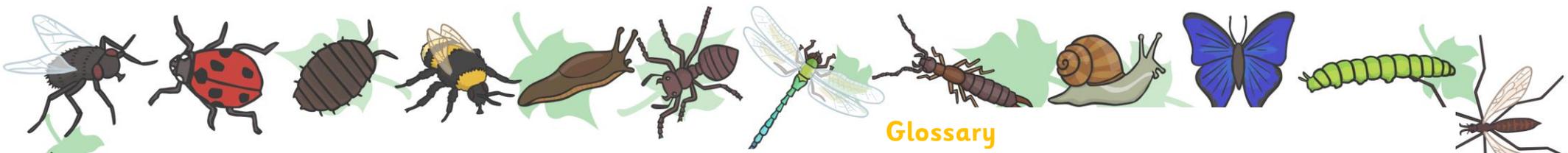


The spots on a peacock butterfly mimic the eyes of a larger animal.



The yellow and black warning colours on a bumblebee warn predators that it will sting.





Glossary

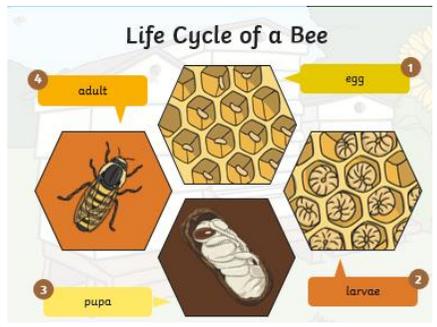
antennae	Body parts found on the heads of some of the minibeasts that are used for feeling, smelling, tasting and sometimes hearing.
camouflage	The colour or shape of an animal that helps it to blend in with its surroundings.
habitat	A place where plants or animals live.
honey	A sweet, golden liquid made by honey bees by nectar.
identify	To recognise and name something or someone.
life cycle	The changes a living thing goes through during its life.
microhabitat	A small habitat.
mimicry	Copying something else for protection from predators and prey.
pollen	A fine powder that flowers use to make seeds.
predator	An Animal that hunts and eats other animals.

Honey Bees

Honey bees are insects. They are important because they collect pollen and carry it from flower to flower. This helps plants to make seeds so new plants will grow. Honey bees also collect nectar from flowers and use it to make honey.

Honey bee life cycle.

The honey bee life cycle has four stages. These are the egg, larva, pupa and adult stages.



The Snail



Henri Matisse
1869-1954



Henri Matisse was a famous French artist. After an accident that left him in a wheelchair, he stopped painting and began making large paper collages.

