Minibeasts

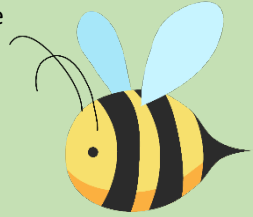What creatures are there in the world and where do they live?

What do minibeasts eat?

How can I look after minibeasts?

What other creatures are there in the world?
Under the Sea
In the Jungle

Key Vocabulary

Minibeast	Worm	Butterfly
Insect	Ladybird	Fly
Legs	Beetle	Centipede
Wings	Spider	Millipede
ChrysalisBee		Woodlouse
Cocoon	Slug	
Caterpillar	Snail	

We will be…

Finding out the names of different minibeasts

Going for a minibeast hunt in the natural environment

Creating a bug hotel/butterfly garden

Observing and caring for caterpillars as they turn into butterflies

Key Information

Minibeasts is a name for lots of different insects. There are lots of different types of minibeasts and they like to live in different places.

Some minibeasts like worms, beetles and woodlice like to live in dark, damp places such as under logs or rocks.

Some minibeasts such as butterflies or ladybirds like to fly through the air and be out in the open.

Minibeasts are good for the environment. Bees help spread pollen so that more flowers can grow and worms help break down fallen leaves to make nutrients for the soil.

Things to do at home

Can you go on a minibeast hunt and take a picture of what you find?

Can you find pictures on your iPad of different minibeasts and describe them? Or create a fact file about them?

Key Texts

Superworm – Julia Donaldson

Minibeast Madness – Giles Andrae

What the Ladybird Heard – Julia Donaldson

Horizons

Research minibeasts

Use the camera to take photo's of minibeasts

Create a minibeast book using an app

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Talk about how some minibeasts are helpful and work as a team. How can we be kind, helpful or work as a team?

Talk about how the patterns on a butterflies wings are unique. What makes us unique?

Talk about how we should treat minibeasts – what can we do to take care of them/look after them?

Physical Development

Playdough/saltdough stations to make different minibeasts – rolling, patting, pressing, etc.

Superworm superhero obstacle course

Make spiders web obstacle courses

Move like different minibeasts

Use a range of tools to create minibeasts – cutting, playdough tools, threading

Communication and Language

Using the new vocabulary in context, encouraging whole sentences. Use images to discuss and provide context.

Retell key texts– provide props and resources

Provide non-fiction texts and images to prompt discussion

Find out and discuss simple facts about different minibeasts.

Use descriptive language to describe real or toy minibeasts.

Literacy

Share key texts linked to the topic

Use non-fictions texts and images to prompt writing

Choose a minibeast to write a story about, like Superworm

Use topic based vocabulary

Match initial sounds to the names of minibeasts

Read simple sentences and match them to pictures

Stick puppets and story sacks to retell key texts

Write simple facts

Practice mark making and letter formation in soil

Maths

Ten Little Caterpillars to prompt counting and subitising

Roll playdough worms, discussing longest and shortest

Set up a minibeast small world tray – how many are there? One more, less, subitising.

Hunt for minibeasts under logs and subitise

Explore the size of different minibeasts and order biggest to smallest

Ladybird doubles

Understanding of the world

Small world play with minibeasts

Non-fiction books and images to discuss

Photo prompts of different minibeasts to discuss/write

Sort minibeasts into their habitats and discuss

Research minibeasts – what do they need e.g. food, water?

Purchase a caterpillar kit and look after

Create a bug hotel or a space to encourage minibeasts

Find out about life cycles

Mini beast hunts and record findings

Expressive Arts and Design

Minibeast artwork using a variety of media and materials

Observational drawings of minibeasts

Sing minibeast nursery rhymes and share poems

Butterfly transient art

Butterfly symmetry painting

Suggested Resources

Small world minibeasts

Fiction and non-fiction books on the topic

Bug pots

Magnifying glasses

Minibeast ID cards