

Rainbow Pack - Home Learning



Week 13

Thursday 18th June 2020

Mighty Minibeasts

This week we begin with a minibeast hunt from The Woodland Trust

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/04/minibeast-hunt/>

A minibeast hunt is a great way for children to get up close to nature. It gets them out in the fresh air, encourages them to use their observation skills, and it gives them a chance to get hands-on with wildlife. All in all it's a great activity for your whole family to do together.



Many minibeasts are more active in spring and summer, but you'll find things all year round if you look carefully. And unlike some animals which can be difficult to spot in the wild, you can find creepy crawlies anywhere. So get out into your garden or your local wood and see what you can find!

Our minibeast spotter sheet (on the next page) features common creepy crawlies like ladybirds, millipedes and worms. See how many you can tick off.

Where to find minibeasts

Minibeasts live in all sorts of habitats. Many prefer dark, damp spots in gardens and woods, so this is a good place to start your hunt. Encourage children to use their best detective skills to track creatures down:

- Peek under large stones and logs to find woodlice and millipedes.
- Peer into the cracks in tree bark and deadwood to find beetles and spiders.
- Poke your nose into long grass to see ants and grasshoppers.
- Look closely at leaves to discover caterpillars and ladybirds.
- Keep your eyes peeled after rain – can you spot slugs, snails and worms?

Lots of creepy crawlies live in trees and shrubs. Lay a piece of white cloth, such as an old sheet or pillowcase, under a tree or bush and gently shake the branches. You'll be surprised how many tiny creatures fall out.

Remember – bugs are very tiny, so be careful if you pick them up and always put them back where you found them.

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Let's all go on a bug hunt!
How many can you spot?



Worm



Bumblebee



Ladybird



Moth



Snail



Spider



Millipede



Slug



Butterfly



Did you find them all?

Feel free to copy and share this for personal and educational use -
and don't forget there are loads more brilliant activities to download on our website!

woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives | 0330 333 5301 | naturedetectives@woodlandtrust.org.uk

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Move like a minibeast

This is a great way to get young children active and help them burn off some excess energy. You can do it outdoors or inside. Challenge your children to:

- lie on the ground and wriggle like a worm
- flap their arms like a butterfly flutters its wings
- put their hands on the floor and scuttle about like a spider
- do some giant leaps like a cricket
- crawl on the floor then curl up into a ball like a woodlouse.

Make a minibeast hotel

Can you find an old plant pot out in the garden, or an old mug you no longer use? They make brilliant bug hotels! All you have to do is fill your pot or mug with natural materials to transform it into a place minibeasts will love.



Hunt around your garden for crackly dry leaves, twigs, hollow stems, dead grass, pine cones and bits of bark and stuff them inside. These are the perfect materials to help create warm, dry spaces that will attract different creepy crawlies. Place the pot or mug on its side (so it doesn't fill with rain), leave it in a sheltered corner of the garden and wait for its grateful new residents to move in.

Or try this idea from Alistair Bryce-Clegg's website
<https://abcdoes.com/home-learning/>



Northern Ireland Forest School Association

Build a Bug House

You don't need a lot of materials for this one.

- * A pair of scissors, newspaper and plant pot or a plastic/milk bottle with the top cut off.
- * Cut the newspaper in half and roll the strips tightly.
- * Place them into the plastic pot.
- * Pop it somewhere in the garden.
- * Have a look in a week or so and see what bugs have moved in.

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Make a wormery

Earthworms are very important for keeping our soil nice and healthy.

Building your very own wormery is a great way to see just what the worms are up to below the surface of the soil.

Follow these instructions from the Woodland Trust to make a wormery of your own <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/05/how-to-make-a-wormery/>

What you'll need

- A big, clean jar with a large opening
- Sand
- Damp soil
- Dead leaves
- A scrap of fabric
- An elastic band
- Some black paper
- And some wiggly worms!



How to make a wormery

1. Pour a thin layer of sand into the bottom of your bottle. Cover this with a thick layer of soil. Repeat until your bottle is three quarters full.
2. Put a handful of dead leaves on top of the soil.
3. Now add your worms!
4. Make small air holes in the fabric. Cover the opening and secure it with an elastic band.
5. Wrap some black paper around your bottle. Remember – worms live underground so they prefer the dark.
6. Keep your wormery in a cool, dark, safe place – a cupboard is ideal. Ensure that you keep it damp and remember to safely release your worms back afterwards in order for them to survive and thrive.

Did you know?

The best time to look for worms is after rain when they come above ground.

Rhyme of the Week

This week's rhyme is
'There's a Worm at the Bottom of the Garden.'
See if you can join in with Mr Tumble
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqchPhezXQ>



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Make a spider craft

Can you find lots of different ways to make a spider?

However you choose to make them, you need to count carefully and make sure that your spider has 8 legs.

Maybe at tea-time you could make a spider on your plate with 8 chips or 8 pieces of pasta for legs!

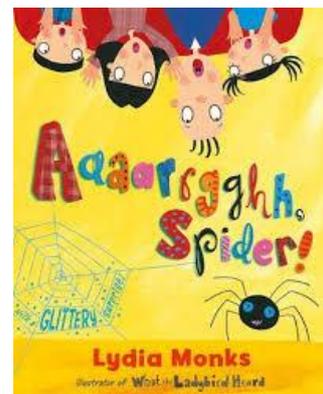


Story of the Week

This week's story is
'Aaaargghh Spider!' by Lydia Monks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVQ9NqBkIPw>

Would you like a spider for a pet?



Have fun playing and learning together!

Chris Dixon
Educator
Early Years Advisor for St Helens Virtual School