

Year 5 Topic

## Befriend a Beast



Arachnids, insects, molluscs and myriapods. Minibeasts come in all shapes and sizes!

In this project, we'll handle a range of minibeasts and small creatures. Taking photographs, making notes and listening carefully to expert explanations will help us to understand how minibeasts move, what they eat and where they live. Using what we've learned, we'll write an interesting minibeast report. In science, we'll learn how to categorise minibeasts and investigate woodlice habitats. We'll make detailed drawings of our minibeasts, present data about them and make maps to show the route of our minibeast hunt. Using wood, stones, garden canes and other natural materials, we'll create 'minibeast hotels' and write adverts to attract minibeasts to stay in them. We'll create a comic about deadly creatures and use interesting vocabulary to write minibeast poems. Minibeasts' homes and their life cycles will amaze us, and we'll watch the fascinating process of stick insects hatching.

At the end of the project, we'll write stories about a minibeast's adventures, make a fantastic fact file and create a 3-D minibeast using a range of materials.

### Help your child prepare for their project

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.

## What will you choose to do?

- If you could be an insect for a day, what kind would you be? Why? Where would you live? How safe would you be from predators?
- Make a bug's-eye plan of your classroom or bedroom. How would things look from high up there on the wall?
- Read the novel *Charlotte's Web*, then write a book review to share with your friends. Is it a good read? Would you recommend it?
- Find out which flowers and herbs attract minibeasts. Plant a bulb or seed in a pot or planter and see who comes to visit.
- Go on a bug hunt in a local park or woodland. What will you find? Can you photograph it?
- Make a comparison between two minibeasts. How are they similar? How are they different?
- Visit a local museum or nature centre to find out more about minibeasts and bugs. Make your own sketchbook and record any information you can gather.
- Use dough or clay to make a replica of your favourite minibeast. Bring it in to school to share with others.
- Make a minibeast glossary to explain all the specialist vocabulary associated with this topic.
- Use poster paints to design a beautiful and symmetrical design for a butterfly's wings. Can you transfer your design to a computer?

