Downloaded by SAMRA at Rugby Free Primary School on 27/04/21. © Copyright 2021 Cornerstones Education Limited

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

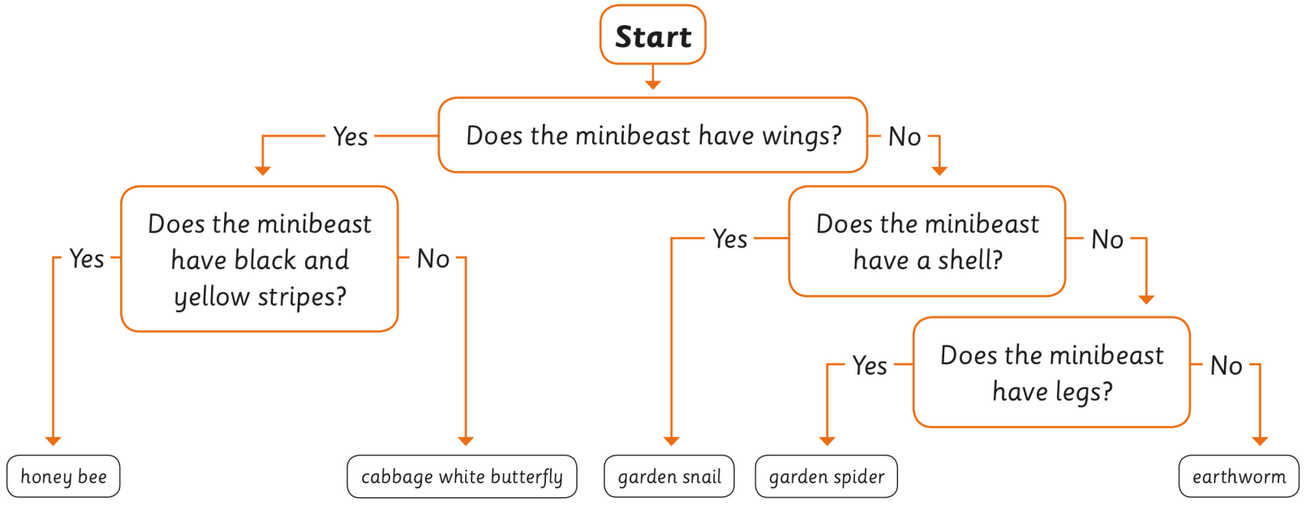
A habitat is a place where plants and animals live. Habitats must have everything the plants and animals need to survive, including water, air, food and shelter. Animals are adapted to survive in the habitat in which they live.

woodland habitat

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

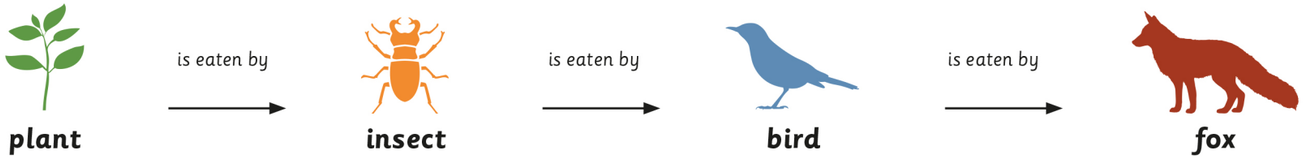
Identifying minibeasts

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.



Food chains

A food chain shows how animals get energy from food. Plants get energy from sunlight. Animals get energy from eating plants or other animals. A food chain always starts with a producer, such as a plant, and ends with a predator, such as a fox.



Tip: Print in A3.

Copyright © 2019 Cornerstones Education Limited

Downloaded by SAMRA at Rugby Free Primary School on 27/04/21. © Copyright 2021 Cornerstones Education Limited

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.

Camouflage

The praying mantis looks like a leaf so it can't be seen by predators.

Mimicry

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

Warning colours

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

Playing dead

The weevil plays dead so predators won't want to eat it.

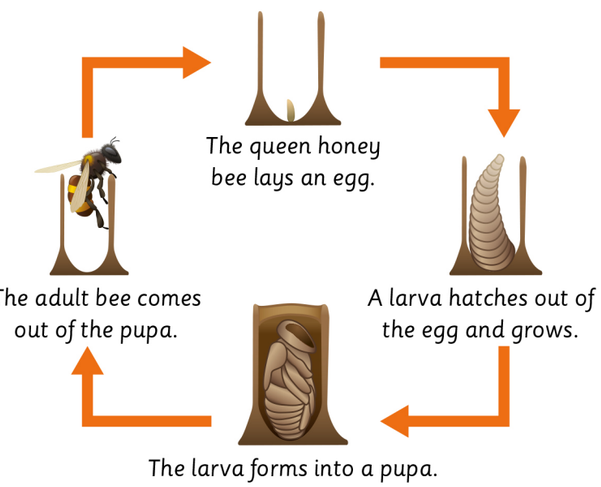
Honey bees

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 bees

Honey bee life cycle

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



Glossary

antennae	Body parts found on the heads of some 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.
food chain	A series of living things that depend on each other as food.
habitat	A place where plants and animals live.
honey	A sweet, golden liquid made by honey bees from 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.

Copyright © 2019 Cornerstones Education Limited