

# Minibeasts



Minibeasts are a group of small creatures known as **invertebrates**. There are hundreds and thousands of minibeasts all around us, such as spiders, beetles, snails, worms, butterflies and much more.

Some minibeasts have a long body and lots of legs such as caterpillars and millipedes. Some have wings such as butterflies and bees, while others make slime to move underground easily such as earthworms. There are even some minibeasts that are coloured to so they can hide on leaves and branches.

## Did You Know...?

A peacock butterfly has eye-shaped patterns on its wings to fool other animals who may want to eat it.



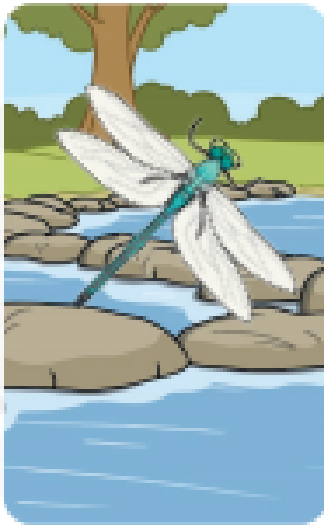
## Where Do Minibeasts Live?

Minibeasts can be found in many different habitats - under logs and rocks, in soil beneath our feet, in piles of leaves, grass, ponds, bushes, trees or even in tiny cracks in walls.



## In the Garden

A garden is a great place to find minibeasts. If you look closely around flowering plants you might see honeybees and bumblebees. Bees are very important to the life of a garden because they move pollen which allows plants to grow seeds and fruit.



### In Ponds and Rivers

Minibeasts can be found in ponds and rivers. These animals could spend their lives in or near water, many begin their lives in water and grow to be able to fly or live on land. You might find dragonflies or even spiders living near ponds or rivers. Dragonflies grow into four-winged insects that live in tall trees near water.

### Minibeast Record Holders



Which minibeasts hold the record for being the biggest in the UK?



The largest stag beetle recorded was 8.5cm long.

The largest earthworm ever recorded in the UK was 40cm long, the size of a small snake.



### Glossary

invertebrates - a creature with no backbone

# Questions

1. Match the sentences.

Minibeasts are a group of

spiders, beetles, snails, worms, butterflies and many more.

If you look closely around flowering plants you might see

small creatures known as invertebrates.

There are hundreds and thousands of minibeasts all around us, such as

honeybees and bumblebees.

2. Complete the sentences below:

Minibeasts can be found in many different \_\_\_\_\_ - under logs and rocks, in \_\_\_\_\_ beneath our feet, in \_\_\_\_\_ of leaves, grass, ponds, bushes, trees or even in \_\_\_\_\_ cracks in walls.

3. What do bees move to allow plants to grow seeds and fruit?

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4. Where do many minibeasts that are found near ponds and rivers start life? Tick **one**.

- ☐ in a tree
- ☐ underground
- ☐ in water

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