

# Minibeasts



Minibeasts are animals with no backbones. You can see them all around us, such as spiders, beetles, snails, worms and butterflies.

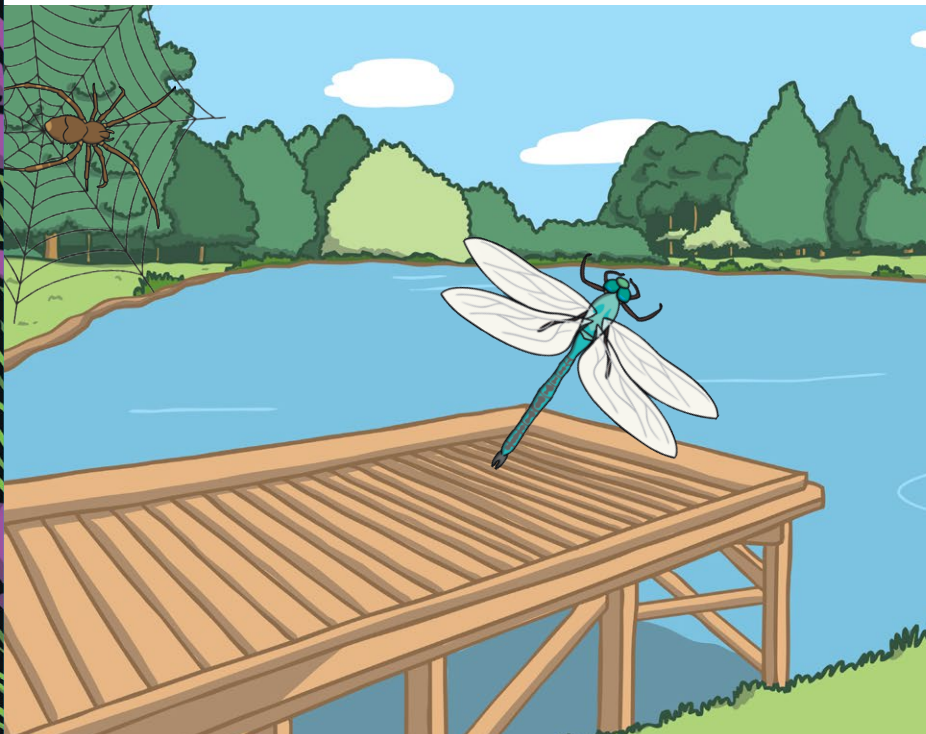


## In the Garden

A garden is a great place to find minibeasts. If you look closely around flowering plants, you might see honeybees and bumblebees.

## In Ponds and Rivers

Some minibeasts found near ponds or rivers can be born in water and grow so they are able to fly and live on land. You might find dragonflies living near ponds or rivers that grow into four-winged insects that live in tall trees near water. You could see spiders too.



## Did You Know...?

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



# Questions

1. What are minibeasts? Tick one.

- animals that have hair or fur
- animals with no backbones
- animals with no legs

2. Where can you find minibeasts? Tick **two**.

- in the garden
- inside the body
- in ponds and rivers

3. What minibeasts can you see near flowering plants? Tick one.

- worms and beetles
- honeybees and bumblebees
- spiders and dragonflies

4. Where can dragonflies live? Tick one.

- underground
- in tall trees
- underwater

5. Which **two** minibeasts might you find near a pond or river? Tick **two**.

- bumblebees
- dragonflies
- spiders

# Answers

1. What are minibeasts? Tick one.

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- animals with no backbones**
- animals with no legs

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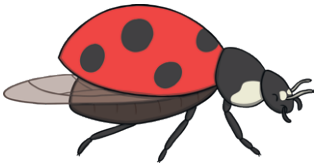
5. Which **two** minibeasts might you find near a pond or river? Tick **two**.

- bumblebees
- dragonflies**
- spiders**

# Minibeasts



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



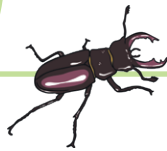
## In Ponds and Rivers

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

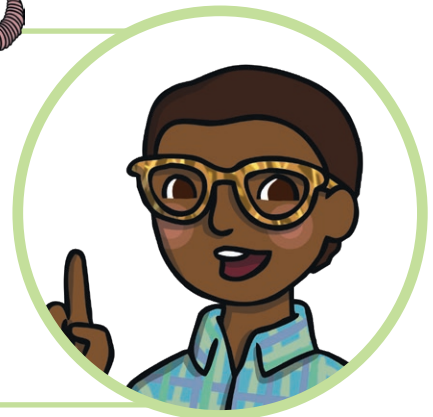


Which minibeasts hold the record for being the biggest in the UK?



The largest stag beetle recorded was 8.5cm long.

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



## Glossary

invertebrate: A creature with no backbone.

# Questions

1. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.

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 of  
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?

\_\_\_\_\_

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

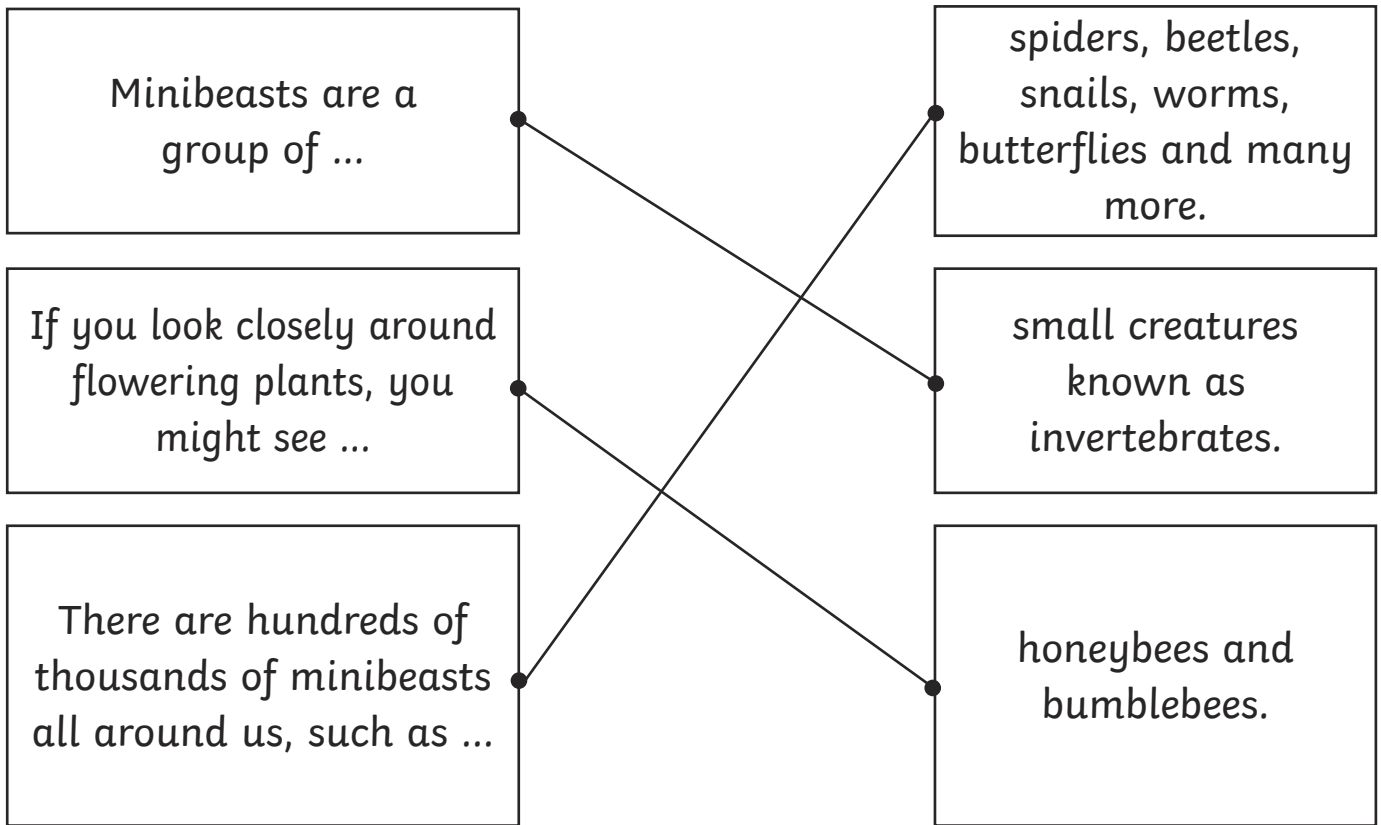
- in a tree
- underground
- in water

5. How many wings do dragonflies have? Tick one.

- two
- four
- six

# Answers

1. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.



2. Complete the sentences below:

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.

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

**pollen**

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

- in a tree
- underground
- in water**

5. How many wings do dragonflies have? Tick one.

- two
- four**
- six

# Minibeasts

Minibeasts are a group of small creatures known as **invertebrates**. There are hundreds of thousands of minibeasts all around us, such as spiders, beetles, snails, worms, butterflies and many more. In fact, there are around 25,000 different types living in the UK.

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 so they can hide on leaves and branches.



## Did You Know...?

A peacock butterfly has **adapted** eye-shaped patterns on its wings to fool **predators** who might 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. They collect nectar to make honey by hopping from flower to flower and they also collect and move pollen which allows plants to grow seeds and fruit.





### In Ponds and Rivers

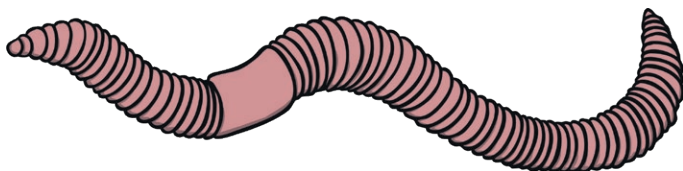
Minibeasts can be found in ponds and rivers. These creatures can spend their lives in or near water, starting out as **larvae** born in water which grow to be able to fly or live on land. You might find dragonflies or even spiders living near ponds or rivers.

### Minibeast Record Holders

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

Minibeasts come in so many different shapes and sizes. If a garden or park has a hedge around it, you might be lucky enough to find a stag beetle. The largest stag beetle recorded in the UK was 8.5cm long.

The largest earthworm ever discovered in the UK was 40cm long. That is the size of a small snake. His name was Dave and he is kept in the Natural History Museum.



### Glossary

invertebrate: A creature with no backbone.

larvae: A baby invertebrate.

adapted: Changed over time.

predators: An animal that hunts and eats other animals for food.

# Questions

1. What are invertebrates?

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2. Complete the sentences below:

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

3. Find and copy a word that means 'a place an animal or plant would live'.

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4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

Bees are very important ...

different shapes and sizes.

You might find dragonflies or even spiders living ...

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.

Minibeasts come in so many ...

to the life of a garden.

Minibeasts can be found in many ...

near ponds or rivers.

5. What is the record for the biggest stag beetle found in the UK? Tick one.

- 9.5cm
- 7.5cm
- 8.5cm

6. Sum up how some minibeasts change during their lives.

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# Answers

1. What are invertebrates?

**Invertebrates are creatures with no backbones.**

2. Complete the sentences below:

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** so they can hide on leaves and branches.

3. Find and copy a word that means 'a place an animal or plant would live'.

**habitat**

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

Bees are very important ...	different shapes and sizes.
You might find dragonflies or even spiders living ...	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.
Minibeasts come in so many ...	to the life of a garden.
Minibeasts can be found in many ...	near ponds or rivers.

5. What is the record for the biggest stag beetle found in the UK? Tick one.

- 9.5cm
- 7.5cm
- 8.5cm**

6. Sum up how some minibeasts change during their lives.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Some minibeasts start out as larvae in the water but live on land when they grow up.**