

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. 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

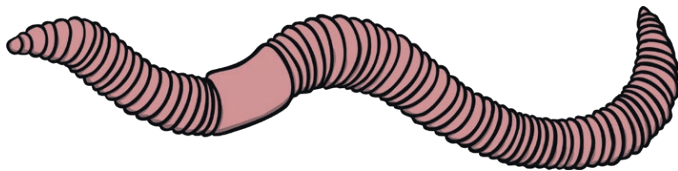
Minibeasts can be found in ponds and rivers. These creatures can spend their lives in or near water, starting out as **larvae** born in water which grow to be able to fly or live on land. You might find dragonflies or even spiders living near ponds or rivers.

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, the size of a small snake. His name was Dave and he is kept in the Natural History Museum.



Glossary

invertebrates - 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?

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**.

4. Match the sentences.

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. Is a slug a minibeast? Explain how you know.
