



Elmbridge
Borough Council
... bridging the communities ...



Go on a bug hunt...

You will need:

- **A pot** (remember that the creatures need to breathe, so make sure you get a grown up to punch some holes in the lid or just leave the lid off)
- **A paint brush or spoon** – to help you carefully lift creatures into your pot
- **A magnifying glass** – not essential but helps you to see the details of your minibeast



Where do you look for minibeasts?

There are lots of good places to look for minibeasts. Different minibeasts like to live in different places, or habitats. One of the easiest places to look is under things.

If you have a garden, look under flower pots or stones – anywhere dark and damp is a good place to search. If you are in the woods or in the park, turn over logs and stones. Remember to put anything you have moved back where it was.

When you turn something over, look very carefully. Most minibeasts are well camouflaged which means they blend into the background; they are a similar colour to their surroundings. Other minibeasts are very fast, they feel scared and threatened when you move their home and will run to safety. If you want to catch any to have a closer look be really gentle with them, they are living creatures. Don't forget to carefully release your creatures back where you found them.

Sometimes you may find evidence of minibeasts in unexpected places!
This is a little ball of spiders eggs wrapped up safely in spider silk.

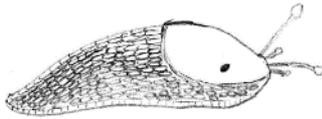


Once you have found some minibeasts, what can you see?

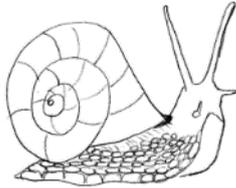
How many legs they have? Do they have sharp jaws? Do you know what they are? What do you think they eat?

Here are some minibeasts you may find:

No legs



slug

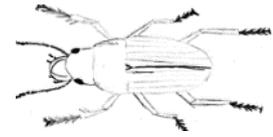


snail

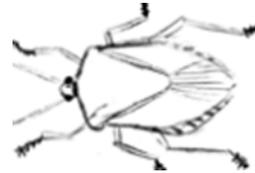
6 legs



ant



beetle

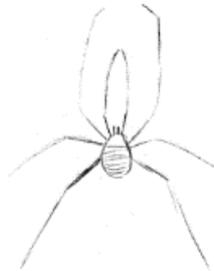


shield bug

8 legs



spider



harvestman

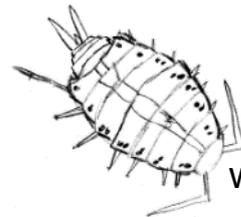
More than 8 legs



centipede



millipede



woodlouse

Tip:

Harvestmen and spiders both have eight legs but look carefully at their bodies. A spider has two parts to its body (a cephalothorax and abdomen) and a harvestman only has one.

Tip:

It can be difficult to tell the difference between a **centipede** and a **millipede**. They both have lots of legs. Centipedes tend to be flat and very fast. Millipedes move slowly. If you look very closely at their bodies you may notice that they are divided into segments. Centipedes have one pair of legs per segment and millipedes have two pairs.

If you enjoyed this activity, why not try these other resources?

Key Stage 1 - BBC Bitesize [What are minibeasts?](#)

Key Stage 2 - BBC Bitesize [What is an invertebrate?](#) [Invertebrate clip](#) [Minibeast clip](#)

[A more detailed invertebrate guide](#)

[Woodland Trust resources](#)

Why not try looking in other types of habitats for minibeasts? A sweep net is useful in grassland. Sweep it through long grass and take a look inside. Don't forget to gently release your creatures where you found them. You are unlikely to have a sweep net so why not try to make your own? The RSPB tells you how [here](#).