

Minibeast Hunt

- This activity can be carried out in any park or greenspace across the city. Places where there are different habitats, such as long grass, woodland and wildflower areas, will have more minibeasts.
- Minibeast hunting takes time and some patience. Give yourself at least an hour for this activity. You may not find all the minibeasts on the list.
- Cover any cuts and wash your hands afterwards.
- Always remember that minibeasts are small and are easily damaged so we have to handle them with care. Its best to not try and catch bees, wasps and butterflies they are easily damaged and may get frightened and hurt you.
- Once you have looked at your minibeast and recorded it try to put them back where you found them, they are wild creatures and do not do well as pets!
- Minibeasts can be found on and under the ground, on flowers, in bushes and on trees. Most prefer damp, dark places like under logs and stones. Butterflies and bees like bright sunshine and warm weather.
- **What you will need:**
 - A small pot to put your minibeast into whilst you look at it. Bug pots can be bought but a plastic container or jar would also work (ensure there are air holes).
 - Something to dig around with and help you pick up the minibeast. Spoons, sticks and paintbrushes are good for this.
 - If you want a closer look at what you find a magnifying glass or sheet is useful.
 - A white sheet or material is also good to place under a bush or tree before shaking it. Any minibeasts will fall onto the material and be easily seen.
 - Your worksheet, a clip board and a pencil

When you find a minibeast look at the pictures on the sheet and decide what it is, then put a mark on the sheet on the same line as the picture under the place you found it. You can use tallies or dots to record the numbers.

After

Things to think about:

- Did you find a wide variety of minibeasts? Does this mean the greenspace is good or bad for wildlife?
- Did some kinds of minibeasts prefer a certain kind of habitat?
- What did you find most of? Why do you think this is?
- What would make the greenspace better for minibeasts?
- If you did this again at a different place would you get the same results?

Further Activities:

- Find out online why minibeasts are so important
- My minibeast worksheet
- Find more information on your favourite minibeast- what does it like to eat, is it endangered, is it found in other countries, are there different types?