

# Home learning during school closures

## A minibeasts project for primary pupils

### Task 1: What is 'a minibeast'?

- Research the most common minibeasts found in your country at this time of year.
- Use a book or the internet to help you.
- Draw a picture of each minibeast.
- Translate its name into your first language (L1); ask your parents to help if you need to.
- Translate any other words that are new to you, e.g. *a wing*.

<i>English</i>	<i>Picture</i>	<i>L1</i>
a minibeast		
a woodlouse		

<i>English</i>	<i>Picture</i>	<i>L1</i>
a spider		
a wing		
a shell		
an antenna		

<i>English</i>	<i>Picture</i>	<i>L1</i>

## *Task 2: What minibeasts can you find?*

- Visit your local park with a clipboard, pencil and paper to look for minibeasts.
- Take a photo of each minibeast or draw a picture.
- Use a table like the one below to record information about each minibeast.

<i>Name of minibeast</i>	<i>Picture</i>	<i>What colour is it?</i>	<i>How many legs does it have?</i>	<i>Does it have wings?</i>	<i>Does it have antennae?</i>	<i>Does it have a shell?</i>	<i>Does it like the dark or the light?</i>	<i>Your own question:</i>
a spider		brown	8	no	no	no	the dark	
a fly								
a beetle								
an ant								

<i>Name of minibeast</i>				
<i>Picture</i>				
<i>What colour is it?</i>				
<i>How many legs does it have?</i>				
<i>Does it have wings?</i>				
<i>Does it have antennae?</i>				
<i>Does it have a shell?</i>				
<i>Does it like the dark or the light?</i>				
<i>Your own question:</i>				
<i>Your own question:</i>				

- d. Use information from your table to speak in full sentences to your family and write sentences afterwards, in both English and your L1, e.g. *A spider is brown with 8 legs and no wings. It has no antennae, no shell and it likes the dark.*

Here is a speaking/writing frame to help you:

\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ legs and \_\_\_\_\_ wings. It has \_\_\_\_\_ antennae, \_\_\_\_\_ shell and it likes \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Task 3: Minibeasts quiz to play with your family!**

- a. Draw pictures of each of your minibeasts on separate pieces of paper.
- b. Fold up your pictures and place them in a bowl.
- c. Choose one picture, but don't show anyone else!
- d. Answer questions from your family from the table above (e.g. *Does it have antennae?*).
- e. Ask your family to 'Guess the minibeast!' after the questions.
- f. Swap roles, choose a new picture and play again!

### **Task 4: What more can you find out about your minibeasts?**

- a. Visit your local park again with a clipboard, pencil and paper.
- b. Use a table like the one on the next page to draw each minibeast and record information about each minibeast.
- c. Use the information from your table and tell your family what you have learnt - or record it on your phone like a nature report.
- d. Write some sentences in English and your L1 if you can, e.g. *I found 3 spiders in 30 minutes. Each one was under a rock and was alone.*

Name and picture of minibeast	How many of this minibeast did you find in 30 minutes? (Use a tally to record)	Where did you find it?	Was it alone or in a group?	Your own question:
a spider				

<i>Name and picture of minibeast</i>	<i>How many of this minibeast did you find in 30 minutes? (Use a tally to record)</i>	<i>Where did you find it?</i>	<i>Was it alone or in a group?</i>	<i>Your own question:</i>



## *Task 5: Which minibeast would you like to be?*

Imagine you are one of your minibeasts and choose one of the following activities:

1. Write a diary entry of your day as a minibeast.
2. Plan and write a story in which your minibeast is the same size as you.
3. Make up your own idea!

Adapted and based on an original from Catherine Brennan, Better Bilingual, 21th May 2020.