

Minibeasts



**Information for teachers
and group leaders**

What will the show involve?

In this 30min show children will learn all about some of our smallest creatures and why they are so important to us. Containing a mix of presenter led and volunteer demonstrations this is a fun way of introducing the topic or consolidating knowledge for both Early Years and KS1 groups.

Is there anything I need to do to prepare the children before the visit?

Not particularly. It can be helpful if children have been doing something about minibeads at school or nursery setting but not essential.

Risk assessment

- Please visit our website education.eureka.org.uk/resources to download both the general museum risk assessment and the one for your chosen session.
- We advise you to make a preview visit to carry out your own risk assessment for the overall visit.

Evaluation

Eureka! constantly aims to improve its programmes for school groups and feedback from adults and children is an essential part of this. We value all comments made and will always try our best to act upon them. You will be sent a link to an online survey following your visit and we'd be extremely grateful if you could complete and return as soon as possible.

Additional resources & information

The following pages contain various supporting resources and information related to the show.

Please find the following documents in this pack:

- **Teacher's assessment chart** - *this outlines the aims and objectives of the show and their learning outcomes.*

The Minibeast Show Learning Outcomes

Aims and objectives – by the end of this show children should have learned:

- That minibeasts can be grouped into – insects, arachnids, millipedes & centipedes and crustaceans
- That minibeasts do not have a backbone like we do
- That minibeasts have many different abilities
- The lifecycle of a butterfly
- That minibeasts live in many different environments
- That minibeasts eat different types of food
- That minibeasts are part of a food chain (KS1)
- That they are a key part of our ecosystem

Overview: Through a series of interactive activities, PowerPoint presentation and discussion, children will learn about Minibeasts and why they are so important to us.

Activities	Learning Outcomes
Introduction to the show	<i>Brief discussion about what an entomologist is. Children help to identify the Minibeasts that had been found outside Eureka! that morning through PowerPoint eye spy.</i>
What are Minibeasts Game – can they guess what minibeasts belong to each category.	<i>Children will be introduced to the 4 categories of Minibeasts (Insects, arachnids, millipedes & centipedes and crustaceans) they then play a game of guessing who belongs to each category.</i>
What is an invertebrate – children are told what an invertebrate is and how they are different to us.	<i>Children will learn that all Minibeasts do not have a backbone like us and are called invertebrates</i>
Minibeast Super Powers Game – guess which superpower belongs to which minibeast	<i>Children will learn all about the super powers these small creatures have, such as super strength.</i>
Butterfly Lifecycle Game – using props and costumes, volunteers from the audience will demonstrate the lifecycle	<i>Children will learn about the lifecycle of a butterfly and how it is continuous.</i>
Minibeast Habitats – talk through different environments.	<i>That Minibeasts live in different environments.</i>
Minibeast diet – game where children have to match up which minibeast eats which item.	<i>That different Minibeasts have different diets.</i>
Minibeast hunt game (EYFS) – the class will use their imaginary binoculars to hunt for minibeasts around the room, the staff member will spot them and reinforce the facts learnt during the session. The children will	<i>Reinforcing the key facts learnt about minibeasts during the session.</i>

<i>then move around the room like the minibeast e.g. march like an ant.</i>	
Minibeast Food Chain Game (KS1) – <i>PowerPoint game where the children have to guess the next animal in the food chain.</i>	<i>That we are all part of a food chain and that different animals rely on others or plants to live.</i>
Why are minibeast so important to us	<i>That minibeasts are vital in our food chain and help feed animals such as birds and bats. They also help with farming by eating insects that can damage our crops.</i>

Follow-up activity to try with your class.

Minibeast Hotel

Make your own small habitat for our minibeast friends.

What you will need:

- Cardboard box or recycled plastic container
- Stones, pebbles, gravel, soil
- Sticks, dead leaves, shredded paper, bark
- Paper straws, toilet rolls

What to Do:

1. Choose a suitable container for your Minibeast hotel. Cardboard boxes and recycled plastic containers both work well. The container should have a lid to keep the rain out. If you are using a cardboard box, you may want to line it with something more hard wearing to make it more durable.
2. Fill the bottom of the container with garden soil, stones, pebbles or gravel. This will provide drainage and keep the contents of your Minibeast hotel dry. Dead leaves, twigs, bark chips or shredded paper can be added on top of the drainage layer for extra insulation.
3. Create chambers in your Minibeast hotel by adding small pieces of wood, straws, toilet rolls or rolled up pieces of paper. These chambers will provide homes for different types of minibeasts.

