

Beast Creator



I know that there are thousands of invertebrates that can be classified into groups.
I can name some of these groups.

I know the different microhabitats where minibeasts can be found and how these habitats are threatened.

I can present food chains and food webs to show where living things get their energy.

I can describe some of the ways minibeasts protect themselves from predators.

I know the names of some 'deadly minibeasts' and how they pose a threat to other living things.

I can explain why minibeasts are important as part of an ecosystem and how climate change affects them.

Key Vocabulary

- Antennae
- Classification
- Climate change
- Consumer
- Ecosystem
- Exoskeleton
- Food chain
- Habitat
- Invertebrate
- Mandible
- Microhabitat
- Mimicry
- Organism
- Predator
- Producer
- Venom



Invertebrates are classified into groups: **annelids** (worms), **insects** (beetles, bees), **molluscs** (octopus, snails), **arachnids** (spiders, scorpions), **crustaceans** (woodlice, lobster), **echinoderms** (starfish).



Many minibeasts have developed ways to protect themselves from predators. Some use warning colours, camouflage, mimicry or play dead. Others have developed stings, bites, sprays or give off an odour as a form of defence.

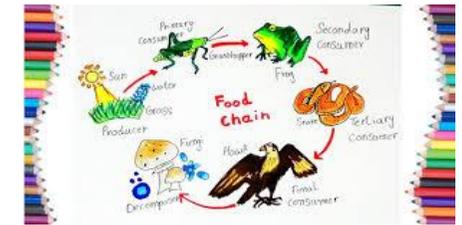
Minibeasts live in different habitats all over the world. Many live in microhabitats such as rock pools, bushes, under logs and among leaf litter. These microhabitats provide food, shelter and protection. Some minibeasts, for example bees and wasps, create their own homes.



Some minibeast are deadly. For example, **the black widow spider** produces venom 15 times stronger than a rattlesnake. **Army ants** work together to attack animals with their mandibles. They can kill thousands of animals in one raid.



Food chains show where living things get their energy. Food chains start with a **producer** that makes its own food. Anything that eats another living thing is a **consumer**. A food web shows how several different food chains are interconnected.



Insects provide a vital food source for many small predators (which in turn are the prey of larger animals). They also provide a pollination service for plants. That means that if there are fewer insects because of climate change the whole ecosystem could be badly affected.

