



Booklet produced by
South Derbyshire District Council
Environmental Education Project

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For more information about Rosliston Forestry Centre
visit

www.roslistonforestrycentre.co.uk



Meet the Minibeasts Early Years Session Booklet

Includes songs and poems from the Early Years/
Ks1 'Meet the Minibeasts' session.

If you **LEARN** some of the songs/poems and
actions with your group at least one of them can
be used in your session.

This booklet also includes **follow up** activities and
ideas for parents, carers and early years staff.



The Minibeast Hunt Poem

We're searching for some minibeasts,
There must be some, or one at least!
We've seen their pictures in a book,
Now I wonder where we should look?

Let's look on a leaf...
Remember to look underneath.
We might find a caterpillar having its lunch,
There it is, going munch, munch, munch!

(Action – hands opening and closing like mouths)

Let's look under a log pile...
It looks like it's been there a long while.
We might find some woodlice in the wood all holey,
They've rolled into ball, rolley, polley, rolley!

(Action – circular motion with hands)

Let's look in the soil and earth...
It's cool and dark under the turf.
We might find a worm having a wriggle,
It's dived into the soil going wiggle, wiggle, wiggle!

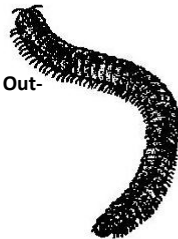
(Action – wiggle one finger)

Let's look on the ground...
Can we see any mounds?
We might find some ants who are in a hurry,
They walk in line going scurry, scurry, scurry!

(Action – wiggle all fingers like legs)

Let's look in the long grass...
It tickles as we brush past.
We might find a spider at home in its web,
Dingling and dangling on a long thread!

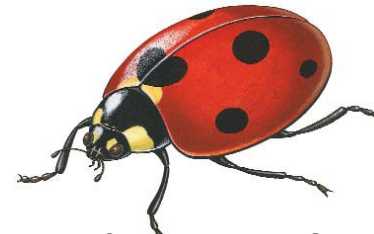
(Action – 2 hands joined by thumbs, wiggling all fingers to make a spider)



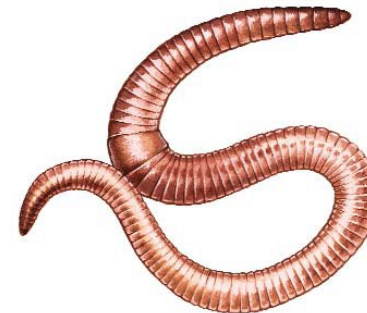
The book has been written by the Environmental Education team. It taps into their wealth of knowledge gained by leading minibeast sessions at Rosliston Forestry Centre for the last 13 years.



Says Vicky Smyth, the book's creator, "With detailed and dramatic illustrations, 'Minibeast Mysteries Revealed' is a guide to commonly-found minibeasts. It outlines some of the amazing facts associated with these interesting creatures. It has been developed for sale in sites in The National Forest."



The book can be bought from the Barn Shop at Rosliston and from The National Forest gift shop online. Pages from the book, which costs £10, can be previewed on the South Derbyshire District Council website www.south-derbys.gov.uk



Minibeast Mysteries Revealed



Not many people know that.....

Weevils squeak to communicate with each other.

Click Beetles will play dead when disturbed.

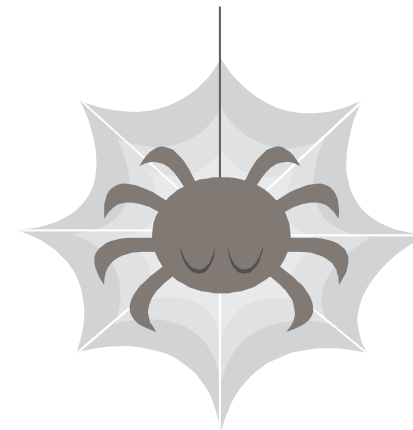
Common Froghopper nymphs make clusters of spit to live in.

These, and many other fascinating facts, are revealed in a new book produced by South Derbyshire District Council's Environmental Education Project.

Incy Wincy Spider

x3 so gives young children the opportunity to join in

Incy Wincy spider climbed up the water spout,
Action - Hands make climbing action
Down came the raindrops and washed poor Incy out,
Action - Hands come down with fingers wiggling
Out came the sunshine and dried out all the rain,
Action - Palms outward, spread hands in an arc
So Incy Wincy spider climbed up the spout again.
Action - Hands make climbing action



The Bug Chant

Red bugs, bed bugs,
find them on your head bugs.

Green bugs, mean bugs,
lanky, long and lean bugs.

Pink bugs, sink bugs,
swimming in your drink bugs.

Yellow bugs, mellow bugs,
lazy little fellow bugs.

White bugs, night Bugs,
buzzing round the light bugs.

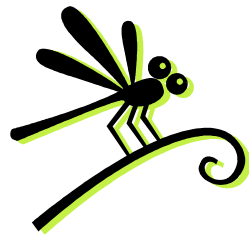
Black bugs, slack bugs,
climbing up your back bugs.

Blue bugs, goo bugs
find them in your shoe bugs.

Thin bugs, fat bugs,
hiding in your hat bugs.

Big bugs, small bugs,
crawling on your wall bugs

Smooth bugs, hairy bugs,



Minibeast Facts

Centipedes are nocturnal and love the dark, so you can find them by lifting up stones or logs or digging in the ground

Insect blood is essentially colourless as it does not contain haemoglobin, which is what makes human blood red in colour

There are 46 species of ladybird alone found in the UK.

Worms live where there is food, moisture, oxygen and a favorable temperature. If they don't have these things, they go somewhere else

Bees never sleep

There are more ants roaming around the world than any other creature on the planet

Rather than use their mouths to create a noise, most insects use their wings or rub their legs together to create sounds for communicating with other insects.

A flea can jump more than 100 times its own height

Moths use both the moon and geomagnetic forces to help them navigate

The common wasp makes her nest from chewed and pulped wood, resembling paper

Dragonflies have almost 360 degree vision

Activities

Square Meter Safari

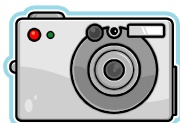
Mark off a small area of ground using wool a couple of inches off the ground. Visit this area on a regular basis and observe the types of minibeasts you see within this area. You might want to introduce different habitats within this area and see if you can attract different kinds of minibeasts eg a rotting log, some leaves, a couple of stones or even dig out a small pond.



Remember to handle the minibeasts you find carefully and place them back in their homes afterwards

Record the different types of minibeasts you find and make a colourful bar chart to illustrate your records.

Take photographs of the minibeasts you find and create a story about them all.

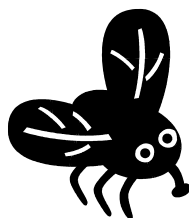


Draw your favourite minibeast and stick pieces of grass, leaves etc on your picture to show the kind of place your minibeast likes to live in.

Study the minibeasts, how do they move? Can you move like this?

Count the number of legs the minibeasts have. Which one has the most legs? Do they all have legs?

Which minibeasts have wings? Use some thick card to create your own set of wings. Will you be a bright butterfly or a camouflaged crane fly?



Wormery

Create a wormery. A small short term wormery can be made by layering damp sand and soil in a plastic drinks bottle. By arranging the soil in layers you will be able to see how the worms mix the soil and recycle dead leaves (make sure you put the worms back into soil when you are finished observing) Alternatively invest in a more permanent wormery and let the worms turn your kitchen waste into lovely compost for your garden. See www.wigglywagglers.co.uk for more information about wormeries.

Minibeast Hotels

Create a minibeast hotel by piling up logs/stones etc in your garden or school grounds. Many minibeasts seek cool, damp places to stay and your hotel will soon be full. Carefully remove a log or two to observe the guests.

