

Why do ladybirds have spots?



Incy wincy spider climbed up the waterspout! Why do ladybirds have spots? Why do spiders spin webs? It's time to find out more about minibeasts and their habitats.

This half term, we'll visit a local park to carry out a minibeast safari! Magnifying glasses clutched firmly in hands, we'll look under logs, leaves and stones for creatures that wriggle, crawl or fly. We'll find out about minibeast habitats, features and colours, and compare them. Observing snails in a tank, we'll think about how they move. Can we move like that too? We'll also move like ants, working together to collect and carry objects to move and rebuild a structure, piece by piece. To get to know these creepy crawlies better, we'll make and monitor a mini wormery, minibeast hotel and a butterfly garden. Can we predict what will be these minibeasts' favourite foods? In our literacy sessions, we'll use sequential vocabulary to retell stories, and write a story from the perspective of a spider. In our mathematics sessions, we'll predict and count ladybird spots and compare the lengths of caterpillars made from cubes, counters and beads. Getting creative, we'll make leaf confetti, minibeast finger puppets, and learn to waggle dance like a bee.

At the end of the project, we'll invite you to an assembly where we'll share our learning with you. We'll also make brightly-coloured pebble beetles and give them scientific names.

Areas of learning	Early Learning Goals
Communication and language	Listening and attention; Understanding; Speaking
Physical development	Moving and handling
Personal, social and emotional development	Self-confidence and self-awareness; Managing feelings and behaviour; Making relationships
Literacy	Reading; Writing
Mathematics	Numbers; Shape, space and measures
Understanding the world	The world; Technology
Expressive arts and design	Exploring and using media and materials; Being imaginative

Help your child prepare for their project

Minibeasts are marvellous! Why not visit your local pet shop together and take a look at some exotic minibeasts. Can you find out what countries they came from? You could also try worm charming in your garden. Put a large hoop on an area of earth, water the area with a watering can, and tap your fingers lightly on the ground. Can you entice any worms to the surface? Alternatively, read minibeast-themed stories together, such as Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *The Bad-Tempered Ladybird*, to find out more about these incredible creatures.