

Microhabitats and Minibeasts

We have been learning about the different habitats where living things make their homes.

Some of these habitats are very big, like a woodland. Some habitats are very small; we call these microhabitats.

A large habitat contains many microhabitats. A microhabitat can be as small as a fallen branch or the space under a stone.

What microhabitats did we find in our local habitat?



Microhabitats and Minibeasts

Here are some different microhabitats you might have found in the local environment.



Under stones and rocks.



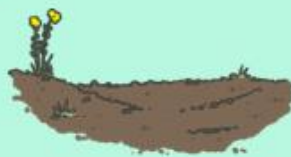
In short grass.



Inside rotting wood.



Under fallen leaves.



In and on the soil.



In tall grass and flowers.

Microhabitats and Minibeasts

A minibeast is a small creature like an insect, a worm or a spider.

Many different minibeasts live in many different microhabitats.



They are suited to live in that microhabitat as they can find the food, water and shelter they need.



Minibeasts help to keep the microhabitat healthy.



Microhabitats and Minibeasts

Caterpillar



Caterpillars like to live on top of and underneath leaves.

This is so they can use their camouflage and blend into the leaf.

This helps to protect them so that they are not easily seen by predators.

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Microhabitats and Minibeasts

Ants



Ants mostly live underground in big families.

There are lots of insects to eat underground.

Ants don't have ears. Ants hear by feeling vibrations in the ground through their feet.

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Worms



Worms like to live anywhere there is soil.

They like to eat dead leaf matter and they need the soil to be moist.

Worms help to keep soil healthy by digging tunnels that let air and water in.

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Spider



Spiders can live in just about any habitat.

When the weather gets colder they have to find shelter.

Their body colours help them to blend in and they build webs to catch insects to eat.

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Ladybirds



During the summer ladybirds like to live in shrubs, branches and flowers.

When the weather gets cold they hide in tree stumps, under rocks and under leaves.

Ladybirds huddle together to keep warm and hibernate until spring.

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Microhabitats and Minibeasts

Did you see any of these minibeasts in the local habitat?



What other minibeasts can you think of?



Microhabitats Enquiry



How could we answer this question?



Do all minibeasts like living in the same microhabitats?

Microhabitats Enquiry

We are going to try to answer the question by finding microhabitats in the local environment and counting the different minibeasts we find there.



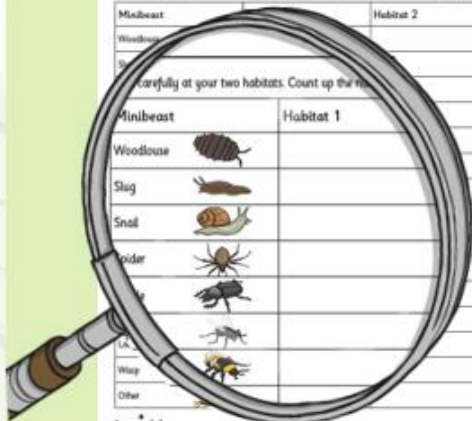
Do all minibeasts like living in the same microhabitats?

Microhabitats Survey

Microhabitats Enquiry - Survey

Look carefully at your two habitats. Count up the number of each kind of minibeast that you find there.

Minibeast	Habitat 2
Woodlouse	
Slug	
Snail	
Spider	
Beetle	
Fly	
Wasp	
Other	



Microhabitats Enquiry - Survey

Look carefully at your two habitats. Count up the number of each kind of minibeast that you find there.

Minibeast	Habitat 1	Habitat 2
Woodlouse		
Slug		
Snail		
Spider		
Beetle		
Fly		
Wasp		
Butterfly		
Caterpillar		
Worm		
Ant		
Ladybird		
Wasp		
Other		

Your Microhabitat.

Choose 2 different microhabitats and complete a survey for each one.

Now compare -

- Were there any minibeasts that were in each habitat?
- Did you find different minibeasts in each habitat?
- Was there anything that you found that surprised you?
- Write your answers below ...
