

MINIBEAST CARD ACTIVITIES

Leaf Litter



 CUT ALONG DOTTED LINES

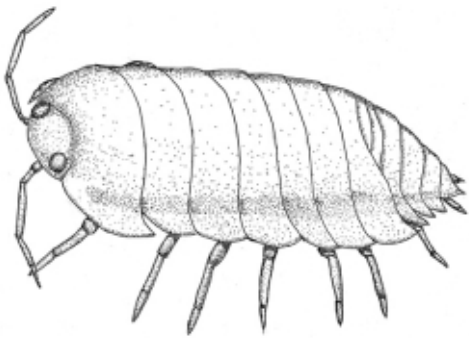
MINIBEAST CARD ACTIVITIES

Ant



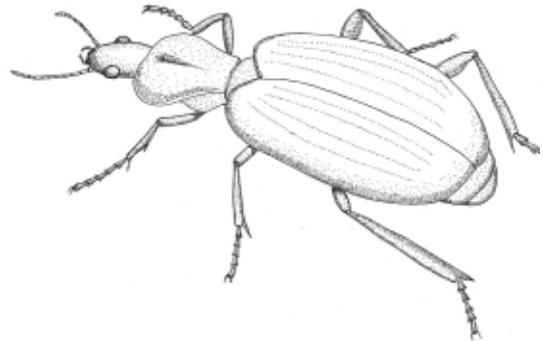
MINIBEAST CARD ACTIVITIES

Woodlouse



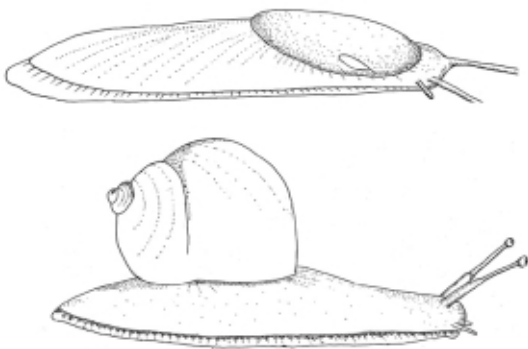
MINIBEAST CARD ACTIVITIES

Ground Beetles



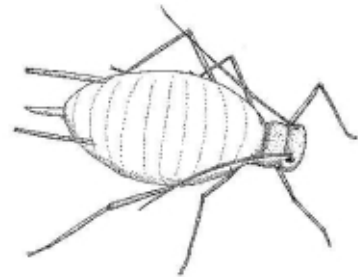
MINIBEAST CARD ACTIVITIES

Slugs and Snails



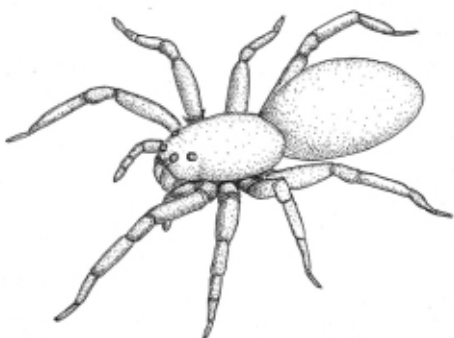
MINIBEAST CARD ACTIVITIES

Greenfly



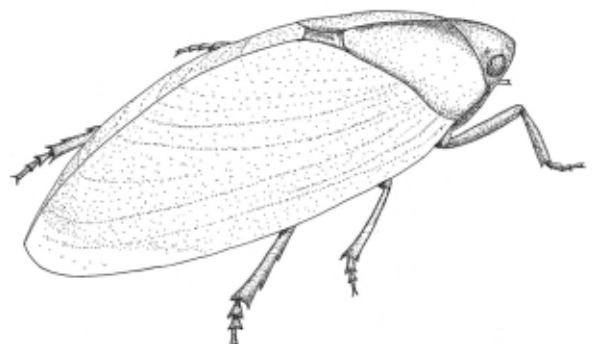
MINIBEAST CARD ACTIVITIES

Spider



MINIBEAST CARD ACTIVITIES

Froghoppers and Leafhoppers



Ant

Latin Name of group: Formicidae

- 4 Feeding:** Ants are predators which eat most other minibeasts. Some ants farm greenfly and harvest the sugary honeydew that they make.
- 3 Season:** Spring, summer and autumn (when warm).
- 4 Habitat:** Most ants live underground. Found almost everywhere.
- 2 Activity:** Active on warm days. Flying ants appear on warm and humid days in the summer. These are winged males and young queens. The males try to mate with a queen but only a few will succeed. The males die the next day but the queens will start a new ant colony.
- 2 Enemies:** Some spiders and other ants.
- 1 Size:** 3 mm to 8 mm.

Ground Beetles

Latin Name of Group: Carabidae

- 4 Feeding:** Ground beetles are predators eating anything that they can overpower. Some are seed-eaters.
- 4 Season:** They can be found all year round.
- 1 Habitat:** In leaf litter, cracks in the soil or under stones and logs in the day, but hunting over the ground at night.
- 3 Activity:** Most hunt at night.
- 4 Enemies:** Birds and small mammals.
- 2 Size:** 3 mm to 20 mm.

Greenfly

Latin Name of Group: Aphid

- 2 Feeding:** Greenfly feed on sap by inserting their very thin and pointed mouth parts (known as a stylet) into the stem of a plant.
- 2 Season:** Mainly in spring and summer. May live on a different plant in the winter.
- 4 Habitat:** Different types (species) of greenflies live on different plants. They can be found almost everywhere.
- 5 Activity:** They always feed, only moving to another plant when they need more food or if they are crowded.
- 3 Enemies:** Ground beetles and spiders.
- 1 Size:** 1 mm to 3 mm.

Froghoppers and Leafhoppers

Latin Name of Group: Homoptera

- 2 Feeding:** Froghoppers and leafhoppers feed on the sap of leaves and stems. Some produce a sticky froth known as Cuckoo spit.
- 2 Season:** Spring and summer.
- 3 Habitat:** Hedge rows, bushes, trees in woodland paths and gardens.
- 3 Activity:** Warm days.
- 3 Enemies:** Ground beetles and spiders.
- 1 Size:** 2 mm to 5 mm.

Leaf Litter

Each autumn most plants in Britain either shed their leaves or the plant above the ground dies back leaving only the roots alive. This means that there is a lot of dead plant material lying around on the woodland floor. Many minibeasts specialise in eating this plentiful food supply.

- 1 Feeding**
- 1 Season**
- 5 Habitat**
- 1 Activity**
- 1 Enemies**
- 6 Size**

Woodlouse

Latin Name of group: Isopoda

- 2 Feeding:** Rotting plants (leaves and wood).
- 3 Season:** Most months of the year but mainly in spring and autumn.
- 2 Habitat:** Anywhere that is dark damp and has dead plant material. Often found under logs and stones.
- 3 Activity:** Night.
- 2 Enemies:** Some spiders.
- 2 Size:** 5 mm to 20 mm.

Slugs and Snails

Latin Name of Group: Mollusca

- 2 Feeding:** Living plant material.
- 3 Season:** Spring, summer and autumn.
- 1 Habitat:** In cracks or under logs and stones in the day, on plants at night.
- 3 Activity:** Night.
- 3 Enemies:** Birds and ground beetles.
- 2 Size:** 2 mm to 20 mm.

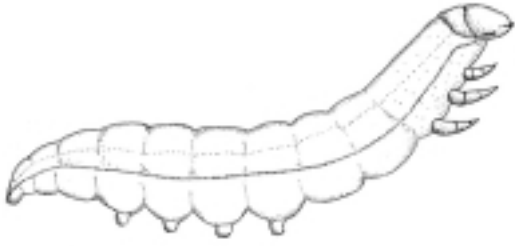
Spider


Latin Name of Group: Araneae

- 4 Feeding:** Spiders feed on other minibeasts. Some spin webs to catch flying and jumping insects. Other spiders hunt by sight, running after or jumping on their prey.
- 3 Season:** Active in the spring, summer and autumn, they spend the winter sheltering from the cold.
- 4 Habitat:** Spiders can be found everywhere on dry land.
- 4 Activity:** Different spiders are active at different times of the day.
- 4 Enemies:** Birds and small mammals.
- 2 Size:** 1 mm to 20 mm.

MINIBEAST CARD ACTIVITIES

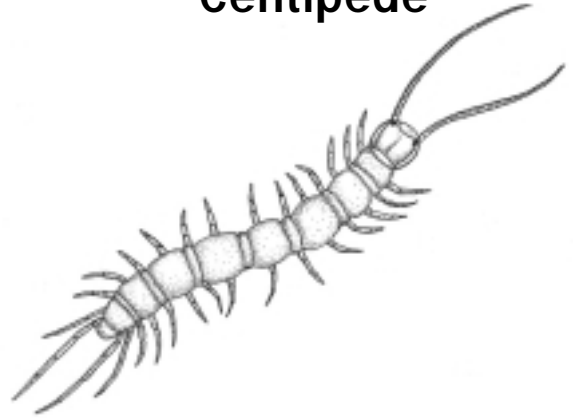
Caterpillars



 CUT ALONG DOTTED LINES

MINIBEAST CARD ACTIVITIES

Centipede



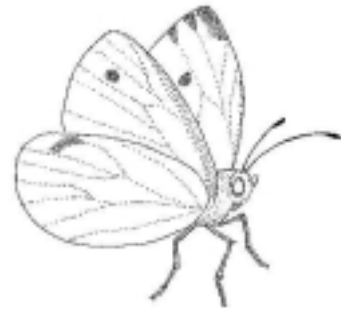
MINIBEAST CARD ACTIVITIES

Millipede



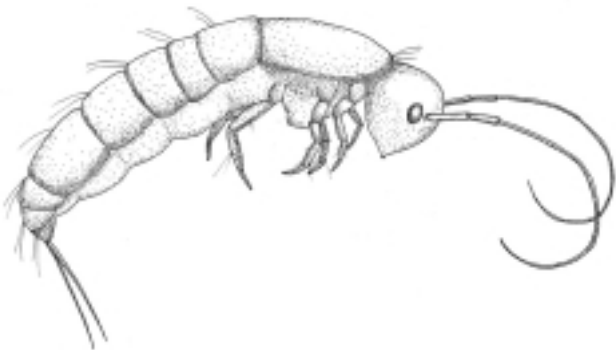
MINIBEAST CARD ACTIVITIES

Butterfly



MINIBEAST CARD ACTIVITIES

Springtails



MINIBEAST CARD ACTIVITIES

Birds



MINIBEAST CARD ACTIVITIES

Shrews



MINIBEAST CARD ACTIVITIES

Living Plants



Centipede

Latin Name of Group: Chilopoda

- ③ **Feeding:** Centipedes are predators, they eat small minibeasts.
- ③ **Season:** All year, mainly in the summer and autumn.
- ③ **Habitat:** Under stones, logs & bark and in leaf litter.
- ② **Activity:** Night.
- ③ **Enemies:** Birds and ground beetles.
- ③ **Size:** 5 mm to 30 mm.

Butterfly

Latin Name of Group: Lepidoptera

- ② **Feeding:** Butterflies feed on nectar produced by flowers at the base of their petals. They have a long tubular mouth to suck the nectar from inside the flower. This is coiled like a hose pipe when it is not in use.
- ② **Season:** They can be found all through the spring and summer. Most spend the spring as caterpillars and become butterflies in the summer, leaving a batch of eggs to survive the winter. Some spend the winter as butterflies, hibernating for the winter in clumps of vegetation or garden sheds. They then emerge in the spring to lay their eggs.
- ③ **Habitat:** Butterflies can be found in every habitat.
- ② **Activity:** They only fly on warm days.
- ③ **Enemies:** Butterflies are eaten by birds and spiders.
- ④ **Size:** 2 cm to 10 cm.

Birds

Birds are important predators of most large insects. They feed large numbers of them to their young in the spring. Minibeasts eaten include, spiders, caterpillars, beetles and shield bugs.

- ⑤ **Feeding**
- ④ **Season**
- ③ **Habitat**
- ③ **Activity**
- ⑤ **Enemies**
- ⑤ **Size**

Living Plants

Plants absorb energy from the sun which is used to produce food and help the plant to grow. Many minibeasts eat plants and in doing so gain the energy that the plants have stored.

- ① **Feeding**
- ① **Season**
- ⑤ **Habitat**
- ① **Activity**
- ① **Enemies**
- ⑥ **Size**

Caterpillars

Latin Name of Group: Lepidoptera

- ② **Feeding:** Caterpillars are the larvae of moths and butterflies. They feed on the leaves and stems of plants. Most feed on the outside of the plants but some are very small and make tunnels inside the plant called mines.
- ② **Season:** Spring and summer. Many will turn into pupae in the autumn and spend the winter in this form. They then hatch into a moth or butterfly the following spring.
- ③ **Habitat:** Every habitat.
- ④ **Activity:** Some are active in the day, whilst others feed only at night.
- ④ **Enemies:** Birds, small mammals, ground beetles and ants.
- ④ **Size:** 2 mm to 100 mm.

Millipede

Latin Name of Group: Diplopoda

- ② **Feeding:** Millipedes eat rotting leaves.
- ② **Season:** Spring and summer.
- ② **Habitat:** Woodland leaf litter, under bark, in trees.
- ② **Activity:** When it is warm.
- ③ **Enemies:** Ground beetles and spiders.
- ③ **Size:** 5 mm to 25 mm.

Springtails

Latin Name of Group: Collembola

- Feeding:** Springtails feed on rotting plants
- ② **Season:** They are found all year round but are most abundant in the spring and summer.
- ③ **Habitat:** Springtails are found in the soil almost everywhere including the frozen wastes of Antarctica. They also occur in woodland leaf litter and compost heaps.
- ⑤ **Activity:** They are active all day long, as by living in the soil or litter layer they are insulated from the heat of the sun and the cold nights.
- ③ **Enemies:** They are eaten by small minibeasts such as young spiders, young centipedes, beetle larvae and ants.
- ① **Size:** Less than a tenth of a mm to 3 mm.

Shrews

Shrews are small mammals that feed only on insects and worms. They have to eat every 2 or 3 hours or they will starve to death. Shrews are active both day and night. They eat large numbers of the bigger minibeasts, such as millipedes, spiders, caterpillars, centipedes, beetles and shield bugs.

- ⑤ **Feeding**
- ④ **Season**
- ② **Habitat**
- ⑤ **Activity**
- ⑤ **Enemies**
- ⑤ **Size**