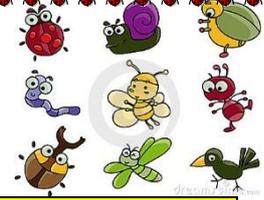


It's a Bug's Life



Rationale

The children became very enthusiastic nature detectives as part of the wonderful world of minibeasts through hands-on investigative and creative learning. They have learned how to identify and classify small invertebrates, investigate and create habitats, research food chains and have observed life cycles in action. This topic has led to a range of scientific writing and creative activities.

Creativity	Independence	Aspiration
A range of art mediums have been used to represent our minibeasts and a super dance routine to The Ugly Bug Ball.	Researching information about a focus insect. Wormery making.	We aspire to increase our ability to identify and classify a range of common insects through hands-on activities and observation in real habitats. To actively respect and support the British countryside.

Spark

We watched the *It's a Bug's Life* animation at the end of Term 4, to prompt our questions for learning.

Learning Celebration

Corridor display of our learning - facts and pictures.
Class blog recording our learning experiences and knowledge.

Role Playing/Life Skills/Real Learning

Visit to a nature reserve
Minibeast hunt
Pond Dipping
Digging for worms
Class wormery
Class butterfly garden
Class tadpole observation tank



Community Cohesion

Local nature reserve.



Out of Classroom Opportunities

Visit to a nature reserve
Minibeast hunt
Pond Dipping
Digging for worms
Visit to Bee Hives

Home Learning Activity

<https://ypte.org.uk/factsheets/minibeasts/what-is-a-minibeast>
<http://www.mylearning.org/minibeasts/p-256/>
<http://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/minibeasts>

Computing and E-safety

E-Safety: Hector's World - It's a serious game.
Keeping our personal information safe when online.

Using the internet to research information.
Fact finding about different minibeasts.



Links to discrete subjects: Literacy Maths RE Music MFL PHSE

- Literacy:** poetry; non-fiction texts; stories in familiar settings
Maths: symmetry; statistics
Music: The Ugly Bug Ball; body percussion
DT: where our food comes from (honey)
PSHE: care for the environment; respecting the countryside; save the bees!

British Values

We will listen to and respect other people's opinions and values.
Protecting British wildlife.

Promoting Health and Wellbeing



The power of honey.

We know where honey comes from and the health benefits associated with it and that bees are the only insect that produce food for humans.

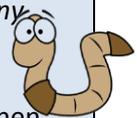
Steps to success

We began our studies by grouping and classifying things that were alive, no longer alive and those things that have never been alive, so that we understood the different states of being.



Then we looked into the term "minibeasts" and found that it means an animal that has no backbone and learned our first scientific word of many to come throughout the term, which was *invertebrate*.

We visited Egleton Nature Reserve at Rutland Water, where we did a minibeast hunt and pond dipping. "I really enjoyed pond dipping - I swirled my net in a figure of eight and got loads of tiny creatures."



We learnt about earthworms, went digging for worms and created our own class wormeries, then created an earthworm fact file.



In our classroom, we had our own live minibeast collection which included tadpoles and caterpillars. We made scientific observations of the metamorphosis taking place as our tadpoles turned into froglets and then tiny frogs and our five caterpillars to chrysalises and finally to magnificent Painted Lady butterflies as part of our studies of animal life cycles. "The frogs were so tiny. They liked sitting on the rock looking around."



We enjoyed a range of minibeast stories by Eric Carle and wrote our own version of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, called *The Very Hungry Tadpole*. Then we painted white tissue paper and used it to collage our own butterflies in the style of Eric Carle's work.

At the Stamford Welland Academy, we used body percussion and percussion instruments to represent the characteristics and movements of our minibeasts and in dance we put together a routine to the song "The Ugly Bug Ball".



We learnt about ladybirds and spiders and finally, we visited some bee hives to see how bees make honey and learn about their importance to human beings. At our visit we were given some wild flower seeds which we have all taken home to plant in our gardens to attract more bees. *"I know that a bumblebee is fat and round whereas a honey bee is long and thin. They're really important to us and there are not enough of them."*