Marvellous Minibeasts

Learning aims:
- Develop scientific language including the terms "minibeast", "invertebrate" and "insect"
- Discover which habitats minibeasts are found in
- Understand minibeast lifecycles
- Learn about a minibeast in your school

Activity 1: Language

Discuss the following terms with your class:
- **Vertebrate** - an animal with a spine (like us)
- **Invertebrate** - an animal without a spine (such as an insect, jellyfish or worm)
- **Minibeast** - a small invertebrate animal
- **Insect** - an animal that has 6 legs, a hard "exo-skeleton" and jointed limbs
- **Exo-Skeleton** - the hard outer casing/shell of an insect's body (not snails - they are not insects)

Activity 2: Minibeast Habitats

Encourage your class to think about where they might find minibeasts. They should also think about what a minibeast would need in a **habitat** in order to **survive**. Think about what habitats you have **around the school** that might be a good minibeast habitat (anything from log piles to broom cupboards!).
Challenge the students to **build a new minibeast habitat** in the school grounds such as a bug hotel, a miniature pond or a log pile. If you can't venture out, get them to **design** one. *Hint: Empty plant pots stuffed with leaves/sticks etc. make brilliant bug hotels. These can be hung in trees/bushes, or stacked like bricks. They are best to be hung/stacked on their sides so that animals don't get stuck in the bottom.*

Activity 3: Minibeast Life Cycles

Split the class into pairs or small groups and assign them a minibeast. Challenge them to **research** the life cycle of this minibeast and **present** it to the rest of the class in any way they'd like.

Activity 4: Minibeasts in Your School

Take the class for a **"bug hunt"** around your school playground. You can use our handy **"How To Bug Hunt"** guide on our website for instructions and ID help.
https://www.theparkstrust.com/get-involved/outdoor-learning/free-activities-and-resources/activities-to-do-in-our-parks/how-to-bug-hunt/