

Minibeast Magic. Welcome to Chances Park.



Thank you for downloading this activity sheet aimed at children aged 8-14 years.

It would be helpful for the parent or adult in charge to also download a copy of the "Chances Park Nature Trail" for additional information.

Activity 1. Multi-storey Minibeasts.

- 1. Go to the Oak Tree (number 10 on your map). Where do you think is the best place to find minibeasts? Your adult will tell you which part of the tree to explore first; roots, trunk, branches or leaves? Who will find 3 minibeasts first?
- 2. What kind of minibeast did you find, and where did you find them?

Activity 2. Look Up!

- Walk to the tree marked 9 on your map. Look up the tree trunk. Can you see any boxes? What kind of creature lives in these boxes? Why do you think these creatures like to live there?

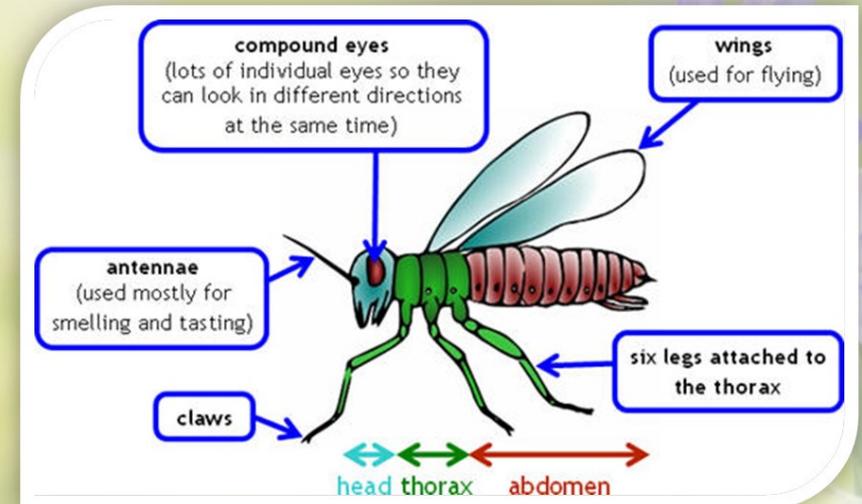
Activity 3. Shh, Insects At Work!

The trail continues at the Georgian Gardens.

- 1. Insects are a special kind of minibeast. They usually have a head, bodies which are IN SECTIONS, 6 legs with joints (like our knees), 2 antennae and 4 wings. Can you tell your adult what kind of insect you think you might see in the garden?
- 2. Find a space, crouch down and listen quietly. You might hear buzzing? Which insect is making the buzzing noise?
- 3. Look carefully at the plants ; the flowers, the stem and the leaves, and underneath the leaves. If you spot an insect you could show it to a friend.
- 4. On a sunny day lots of bees, butterflies and ladybirds will visit the gardens. What do you think they are looking for?

Activity 4. Did you know?

- 1. A "minibeast" is a name for lots of different types of creatures. For example, insects, arachnids and molluscs. Can you name an insect? An arachnid? A mollusc?
- 2. Minibeasts don't have a backbone, or a skeleton inside. Can you feel your backbone? What job does it do?
- 3. Some minibeasts have a hard shell to protect them. Can you name a minibeast with a hard shell?
- 4. Minibeasts can be found on land and in water. Can you name a minibeast that lives in water?
- 5. Some minibeasts feed off plant material, and some feed off other creatures. Can you think of a minibeast which eats other minibeasts?





Activity 5. On the move.

- As you are moving to the fallen tree (no 5 on the map) tell your friends about the different ways minibeasts can protect themselves from predators.



Activity 6. Let's Investigate.

- 1. What ways of protecting themselves did you think of? What kind of minibeast uses...a hard shell? Bright colours = nasty taste? Mimicry (pretending to be something else)? Slime?
- 2. First you are going to look at the outside of the fallen tree. Look carefully in the grooves and holes in the bark. Are there any beetles or spiders? If you find one, can you count it's legs?
- 3. Can you see underneath the bark? Slugs like to hide in holes in dead wood. If you spot any , tell a friend. You might also see tiny holes in the wood where minibeasts have eaten their way through.



Activity 7. Walk like a woodlouse.



- 1. Did you spot any woodlice on the fallen tree? They also like to live in damp places like under leaves and rocks. If a woodlouse thinks it is in danger, it curls up. Can you curl up, like a woodlouse?
- 2. Woodlice have 14 legs! Can you find a way of moving like a woodlouse? Can you move all the way to the meadow?



Activity 8. Amazing Meadow.

- 1. Meadows are special places where lots of different wildflowers and grasses grow. You can find minibeasts in many places in the meadow. Look at the ground, on the stalks, on the flowers and in the air. How many different minibeasts did you find?
- 2. If you are lucky enough to see a bee or a butterfly land on a flower, you might be able to see it drink some nectar. Do you know what nectar is? When the insect flies to the next flower it carries pollen with it, which helps the plant to make seeds, and more plants!.

Activity 9. Make your own minibeast.

- Using twigs, leaves, grasses , stones and berries, see if you can make your own minibeast? It can be as strange as you like. Give it a name and tell your friend all about it.

