

Minibeast Trail – On a Bug Hunt. Welcome to Chances Park.



Thank you for downloading this activity sheet aimed at children aged 3-8 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. Where to start?

- Let's start our trail at the Oak Tree (10 on your map). You are going to be looking for minibeasts. What do we mean by minibeasts? Tell your adult the names of the minibeasts you think you might see today. Did anyone say “ Snail”, “Spider” or “Butterfly”? Where are we going to look for the minibeasts?

Activity 2. I Spy.

- 1. You are going to investigate the Oak tree, to find out if it is a good home for minibeasts. Your adult will tell you which part of the tree to start looking at.

Areas to investigate: On the ground, by the roots. On the bark. In any holes in the tree. On the leaves, both sides.

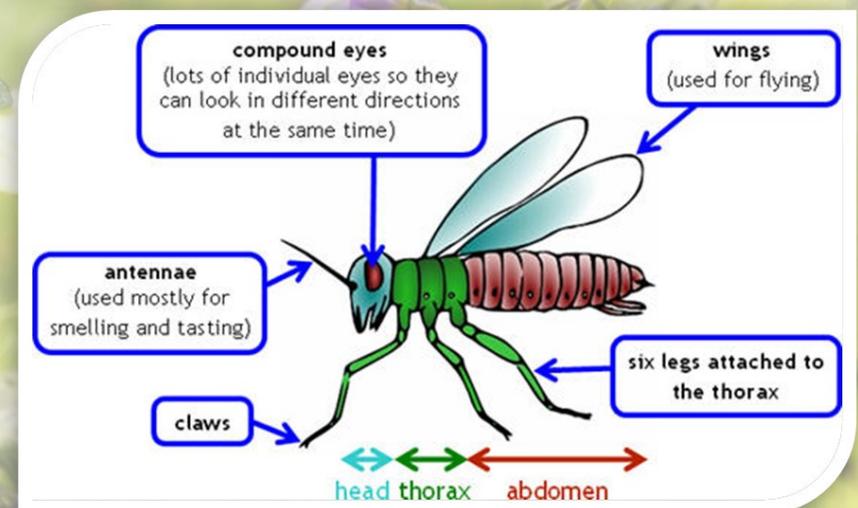
- 2. If you spot a minibeast , show it to a friend. Try not to touch them , as they are very delicate.

Activity 3. On the move.

- 1. The trail continues at the Georgian Gardens. You are going to move like a minibeast to get there. Without telling anyone, choose a minibeast and think about how it moves. Are you going to be....A beautiful butterfly, flying silently? A marching ant? A scurrying spider? A slow snail? Or something else?
- 2. See if your adult can guess which minibeast you are trying to copy.

Activity 4. Shh, Insects at work!

- 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?



Friends
of Chances Park



Activity 5. On the move again.

- You are going to move to an area which is home to lots of minibeasts ; the fallen tree (marked 5 on the map). As you are moving look out for any insects flying through the air. Tell your adult if you spot one.



Activity 6. Let's Investigate.

- 1. 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?
- 2. 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.

- 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?

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 adult all about it.

