



Minibeasts and Leaves

Strange creatures and habitats

Age: 7-14

Topic: Creative writing and Art

Time: 1-2 hours



If you would like to develop your outdoor learning knowledge and skills, take a look at our range of training courses: ltl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training

© This activity sheet was created by the Learning through Landscapes Trust. Registered charity no. in England and Wales 803270 and in Scotland SCO38890

What should learners already know?

- Minibeasts are adapted to the habitat they live in.
- We can learn about minibeasts by learning about the habitats they live in.

What equipment will I need?

- Writing materials.
- Colourful pens and pencils, A3 paper (optional)

How will learners explore this?

1. Divide the class into groups of 4 or 5.
2. Give each group a 'strange' habitat. Some examples are given opposite, but feel free to create your own, or ask children to think of some!
3. Get each group to invent a minibeast that lives in their assigned habitat. Let them be creative, but remind them that every part of the creature must help it to survive in its bizzare home.
4. Encourage children to also think about how the animal eats, whether it can see or hear and whether it has any special senses.
5. Ask the children to write a few sentences as a group about the minibeast they have invented. They can also do a collaborative drawing of the minibeast, making sure to label any special features.
6. Finally, each group can present their minibeast to the class!
7. Display the minibeast drawings around the classroom.

How can we show the learning?

- Discuss with children why it is important for animals to be adapted to their surroundings.
- Ask children to explain why they have chosen each anatomical feature for their minibeast. What colours, sizes and textures have they chosen for their minibeasts? Why would this give them an advantage in their habitat?
- Ask children how their minibeast fits into a food web. Is their minibeast a predator, a prey species or both? What features have they given their minibeast to help with food aquisition?
- Challenge children by asking if they can think of any minibeasts that have similar features to the creatures they have created today. Why do they have these similarities? Are their habitats similar in some ways?



Ideas for strange habitats:

- Between the pages of a book
 - Beneath a rug or carpet
 - In the plug hole of a bath
 - In a calculator
 - In the freezer
 - On the aerial of a car
- Feel free to create your own!

