

# Marvellous Minibeasts

As the weather warms up, minibeasts start to come out of their winter hidey holes to be a bit more active. The [Woodland Trust](#) provide great tick sheets to help you identify some on the [ground](#) or in the [air](#). Remember, when investigating minibeasts, be very gentle and always put them safely back home.

## Go on a minibeast hunt

Your local park or green space, or your garden if you have one, is a good place to start hunting for minibeasts.

You will need: a bug pot or a jar / tupperware box with a lid and a paintbrush.

You can search under logs, flower pots and stones, on the leaves of trees and bushes, amongst the grass and in the air. Don't paint the minibeasts! The paintbrush is to help you gently collect them without hurting or squeezing them. Have a good look at your minibeast. Always make sure you return them to where you found them and put any logs or stones back too.

## Shake a tree

Trees are homes for hundreds of different minibeasts, from spiders and ladybirds to shield bugs and caterpillars.

You will need: a sheet of white material.

Place your sheet of white material on the ground under a bush or tree. Shake the branches of the tree for at least 10 seconds. Look on your white sheet to see what has fallen out.

## Build a beast

All minibeasts have special features to help them survive. For example centipedes have venom filled pincers to help them catch their prey, and grasshoppers have long legs to jump with and are green to camouflage in the grass.

You will need: a selection of natural materials.

Using found objects, design your own minibeast. Make up a brilliant name for it and ask yourself the following questions: Where does it live? What does it eat? How does it move? How does it protect itself?

Make up your own questions for a family member.

## Make a Tumble Trap



Many minibeasts are more active at night to avoid being eaten by birds and other predators.

You will need:  
A yoghurt pot/ jar and a trowel.

Dig a hole in the earth and bury your yoghurt pot or jar so that the top is level with the top of the soil. Cover with a log or stone, making sure there is a bit of a gap. Leave it overnight and see what tumbles in. Surrey Wildlife Trust have a good [activity sheet](#) to show you how.

## Build a minibeast hotel

There are lots of different ways to build homes for minibeasts but so long as there are lots of hidey holes and some wood, you should soon start getting customers.

You can go for a deluxe high rise and use bricks, planks, stones, logs, twigs and tiles. The [rspb](#) have an excellent guide.

Or you can make more of a motel style with just a bundle of bamboo canes, twigs and string. The Surrey Wildlife Trust have and [activity sheet](#) for this.

