

Massive Minibeasts

This lesson covers the importance of compost and the role of minibeasts, along with common types of minibeasts and how to identify them.

Objectives

- Understand what compost is, how it's made and why it's important.
- Learn what the role of minibeasts is in the composting process.
- Identify common minibeasts and some of their features.

Lesson Outline

Class discussion:	Show the children a sample of compost and briefly explain what it is, how it's made and why it's important. Tell the children the important role of minibeasts in breaking down organic matter.
Activities:	Play 'bug bingo'. Each group to be given photographs of 6 invertebrates and 6 coloured counters. Call out clues (differentiate by ability) for each minibeast in turn and ask children to mark the animal they think is being described with a particular colour counter. Continue until all the invertebrates have been assigned counters, differentiating clues by ability. Check the children's answers, telling them more fascinating facts about each minibeast.
	Reveal the wormery and trays of minibeasts. Give each pair of children a small tray of compost and ask them to look for and identify the minibeasts we have talked about. Use the digital microscope to enlarge some of the minibeasts on the whiteboard.

Follow up/extension activity:	Set up a wormery in school for fruit and vegetable waste.
	Set up a compost bin in school.

Resources

- Minibeast photographs and coloured counters (1 set per group).
- Minibeast information – for clues.
- Digital microscope and magnifying glasses.
- Wormery or compost.
- Hand washing facilities.

