Find out about many different minibeasts and where they live. What do spiders eat? How do bees help us? Why don't we like flies?

CEFR Level A1+
YLE Movers
Text type: nonfiction
Word count: 486
Lexile measure: 470L

Lesson objectives

Vocabulary focus
Minibeasts: *ant, bee, butterfly, caterpillar, centipede, dragonfly, insect, ladybird, snail, spider, water boatman*
Living things: *chrysalis, egg, larva, leg, stinger, wing*
Places: *ground, pond, nest, water*
Adjectives: *bad, best, big, little, old*
Verbs: *catch, clean, eat, fly, grow, help, live, run, swim*
Prepositions: *in, on, under*
General: *food, flower, fruit, germs, plants, pollen, web*

Grammar focus
Prepositions

Reading skills
Categorizing

Cross-curricular connections
Music (song)
Science (animals, parts of the body, life cycles)

Resources
Reader
Activity Book
Flashcard download 1–10
Audio download (UK/US) tracks 1, 4

Timing: 40–60 minutes
This is to be used as a general guide and will depend on group size, the pace of learning, and the children's language ability.
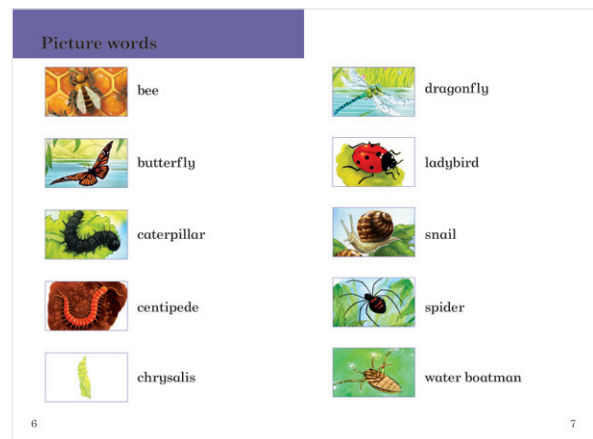
We would suggest 10 minutes for **Before reading**, 20 minutes for **During reading** and 10 minutes for **After reading**. Additional time can be used for further activities.

Lesson plan

Before reading

Show the children the front cover of the Reader and ask: *What can you see?* If the children don't know what they are, say: *These little animals are minibeasts. How many minibeasts can you see?* Then ask if they know any of the names for the minibeasts.

Ask the children to look at Reader pages 6–7, or show them the Flashcards, and introduce the vocabulary.

Picture words: bee, dragonfly, butterfly, ladybird, caterpillar, snail, centipede, spider, chrysalis, water boatman
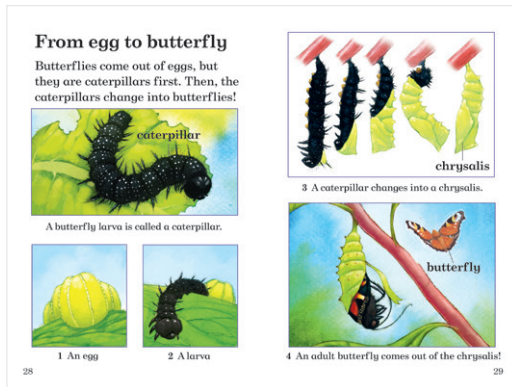
During reading

Read out the text or play the recording (Audio track 1). Ask the children to follow in their Reader. Ask questions to check the children's understanding, for example:

How many legs do insects have? Which minibeasts can fly/swim? What do snails/centipedes eat?

Ladybird Readers

Make sure that the children understand the life cycles described on pages 26–31.

Go through the text again and pause after every few pages. Ask the children to tell you an interesting fact they have just learned about minibeasts. At the end, ask:

Which are your favorite minibeasts? Why?
Which minibeasts don't you like?

After reading

To focus on categorizing the minibeasts, display Flashcards 1–4 and 6–10 and say: *Let's put the minibeasts into groups.* Start by using the prepositions *in*, *on*, and *under*, for example:

Which minibeasts live in water/nests/gardens?
Which live under the ground? Which live on plants/old food?

Encourage the children to tell you what they can remember about the minibeasts. For each question, ask the children to help you group the Flashcards to show which minibeasts can be put into the different categories.

Continue with other categories, for example:

Which minibeasts have six legs/are insects?
Which can swim/fly? Which look the same as their parents? Which help us? Which are bad?

Play a game with the children. Start to describe one of the minibeasts and see how quickly they can guess which one it is. Do this with a few different minibeasts and then ask some of the children to describe a minibeast themselves.

The children can do the following activities to focus on where minibeasts live:

- Reader activities: 9, 16
- Activity Book activities: 10

The children can do the following activities to categorize the minibeasts:

- Reader activities: 1, 3, 5, 8, 12, 19

To finish the lesson, play the song (Audio track 4) on Activity Book page 16 and ask the children to listen and put up their hands each time they hear the word *minibeasts*. Play the song a few times, and encourage children to follow in their book and join in.

Differentiation

Extra support
To help the children with the categorizing activity, let them look through the Reader to find useful information before they begin.

Extension
Fast-finishers can extend Reader Activity 8 by adding more columns and organizing the minibeasts into more categories.

Ladybird Readers