

# SCIENCE 1

WALT – observe mini beasts in their natural habitat

# Getting started...

**Start by asking the pupils some quick questions;**

- What is a minibeast?
- How many minibeasts can you name in 30 seconds?
- Where do you think they would live?  
In soil, inside rotting logs, under stones, on leaves.
- What do they eat?  
They eat a wide variety of things - dead or alive, plant or animal, fresh or decaying. Many of them help dead things to rot down!

# Activity 1 – unnature trail

- Set up an unnature trail in your garden or on a walk by placing objects that do not belong there. Some should be obvious and some should be hidden well (opportunity to discuss camouflage).
- Children then go and see if they can find the unnatural objects – discuss which ones were easy to spot and why and why they do not belong there.

# Activity 2 – Mini beast hunt!

Explain to the pupils that they are going to go on a minibeast safari to find out which minibeasts we have here and what they are doing. Set clear boundaries for where the children can roam. Talk about the health and safety aspects of the area that they are exploring and not to put their hands in their mouth, ears and eyes! This is also a good time to get the children to agree upon a set of rules to follow about how to look for/handle minibeasts. For example:

- Be calm and quiet – otherwise they will all run/slither/fly away!
- Be gentle – they are delicate so do not squash them.
- Do not touch their wings.
- If you move rocks or logs make sure they go back exactly as you found them.
- If they do pick any of the minibeasts up they must be returned to the same place.

Mini beast	Where did you find it?	How big is it?	What colour is it?	How many legs does it have?	Does it have wings?

