

Harvills 101



bookmark -25 tasks



Torch - 50 tasks



pencil case - 75 tasks



rucksack - 101 tasks

Minibeasts in motion!!



Decomposer Safari



When you have an empty bottle, do you recycle it so the plastic or glass can be used again?

Nature has its own recycling system: a group of organisms called decomposers. Decomposers feed on dead things: dead plant materials such as leaf litter and wood, animal carcasses, and faeces. They perform a valuable service as Earth's clean-up crew. Without decomposers, dead leaves, dead insects, and dead animals would pile up everywhere.

Imagine what the world would look like!

Creatures (which are living organisms) that break down waste are called decomposers.

Minibeast decomposers are all different. The main thing they have in common is that they eat waste material. The clue is in where you find them – around dead matter.

What are the types of minibeast?

Minibeasts can be broadly split into six categories: insects, molluscs, annelids, crustaceans, myriapods and arachnids.

There are decomposers in almost all of these groups.

Harvills 101

Your Harvills 101 task is to use your observation skills and go on a bug hunting safari to see which minibeasts (decomposers and non-decomposers) you can discover.

Before you head out to explore, make sure you follow good fieldwork practice.

Do not touch minibeasts with your hands as you may damage fragile wings and legs. You could pick them up using a soft paintbrush.

- **Search with care.** Lift up stones, logs and plant pots carefully and put them back down gently, exactly where you found them.
- **Don't** keep minibeasts for too long and always put them back exactly where you found them.
- **Don't** try to catch bees and wasps as they may sting.

You will need:

- ● Outdoor space to search for minibeasts
- ● Decomposer ID sheets and pencils – or make your own guide
- ● **Optional** - a small pot with a lid and a paintbrush to catch and examine minibeasts

Decomposer ID guide

Insects Look for three body parts and six legs.

Ant
Size: 3–5mm
Colour: Red, black or brown
UK species: Over 50

Beetle
Size: 4mm–7cm
Colour: Many different colours
UK species: Over 4,000

Earwig
Size: Up to 15mm
Colour: Brown and black
UK species: 4

Fly
Size: 0.5mm–14mm
Colour: Many colours
UK species: 7,000

Wasp
Size: 0.14mm–13mm
Colour: Many different colours
UK species: 7,000

Molluscs
Look for a soft, unsegmented body and usually a shell.

Slug
Size: Up to 19cm
Colour: Brown, black or yellow
UK species: 40

Snail
Size: Up to 5cm
Colour: Many colours
UK species: 120

Annelids
Look for soft, segmented bodies with no eyes.

Earthworm
Size: Up to 35cm
Colour: Usually pale colours
UK species: 27

Crustaceans
Look for a body made of segments, a tough shell, two pairs of antennae and jointed limbs.

Woodlouse
Size: Max 18mm
Colour: Many colours
UK species: 30 species

Myriapods
Look for many pairs of legs, two body segments and one pair of antennae.

Millipede
Size: Around 40mm long
Colour: Black, grey, brown or white
UK species: More than 50

Centipede
Size: About 3cm long
Colour: Brownish red
UK species: 40

Tally how many you find.

Photos: Brian Steward, Nick Lipson, Louise Campbell, Ed Almond, Tim Hunt (Cephalopods.com), Hill Phillips, Science Storebooks, Corbis, J. J. Zolnerowich (Getty Images)

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Now you're all ready to go exploring.

Make sure that you **have an adult with you** or that you have **asked their permission** before you go on your adventure.

When a minibeast is found, try to work out what it is.

Count the legs.

Does it have wings?

Does it have antennae?

Use the sheet to try and put it in a category.

Is it a decomposer?

You could record what you find by writing about the minibeasts that you found; drawing a picture of the minibeast; taking a photograph or simply making a tally on the ID guide.

Harvills 101

Decide on the best way to record your information to show which minibeasts you found.

Bring the evidence into school to show your teacher or bring it to 6NW by June 30th.

Don't forget to tick off activity number 3 in your Harvills 101 booklet!!

I look forward to learning about your bug hunting adventures.

Mrs. Wilding

