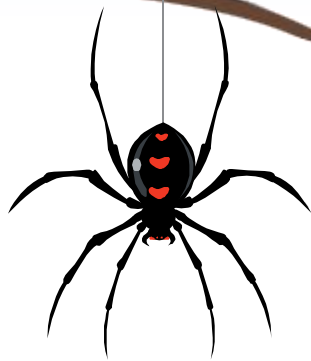


# Minibeasts



# What is a minibeast?



A minibeast is a small animal or 'creepy crawly'.

Minibeasts have no backbone .

Minibeasts do not have a skeleton on the inside.

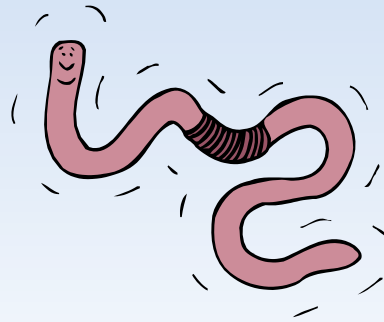
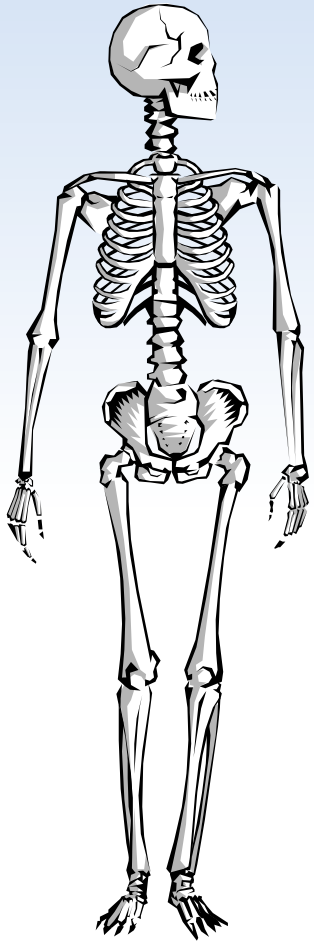
Some minibeasts have a hard shell to live in.

Minibeasts can be found on land, water and air.

There are lots of different kinds of minibeasts. Can you name any?



# How are minibeasts different from us?



**Worms have soft bodies**



**Snails have soft bodies  
and a hard shell**

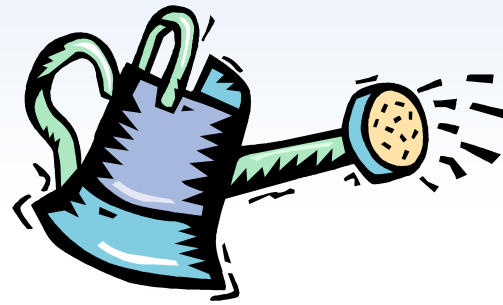
- We have our skeletons inside our bodies. Minibeasts have their skeletons outside their body.
- Minibeasts have soft bendy bodies.
- Some minibeasts have a hard shell to protect them.



# What do minibeasts need to survive?



Food



Water



Shelter

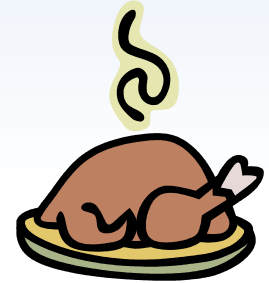


# What do minibeasts eat?

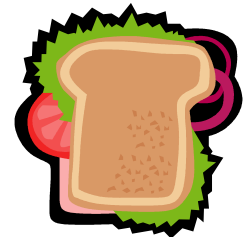
Some minibeasts eat plants...  
they are called  
**herbivores.**



Some minibeasts only eat meat...  
they are called  
**carnivores.**



Some minibeasts eat both plants and meat...  
they are called  
**omnivores.**



# What do minibeasts live?



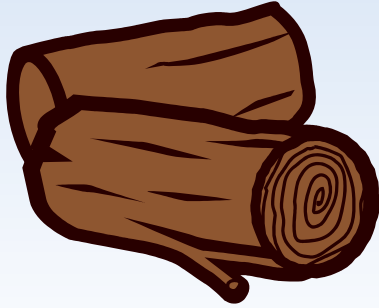
A minibeast's home is called a **habitat**

A habitat is where a minibeast lives. It is more than just a home as it includes everything an animal needs to survive (**food**, **water** and **shelter**). A habitat could be as big as a forest or as small as a leaf.

Can you think of a good habitat for a minibeast?



Can you think of any minibeasts that might live in these habitats?



Under a log



On a plant or tree



In the soil



In a pond



# Sorting minibeasts

You can sort minibeasts by the number of legs they have.

0 legs = Worms, snails, slugs

6 legs = Insects; beetles, butterflies, bees, ladybirds

8 legs = Spiders

14 legs = Woodlouse

More than 14 legs = Millipedes and Centipedes





# Slugs and snails

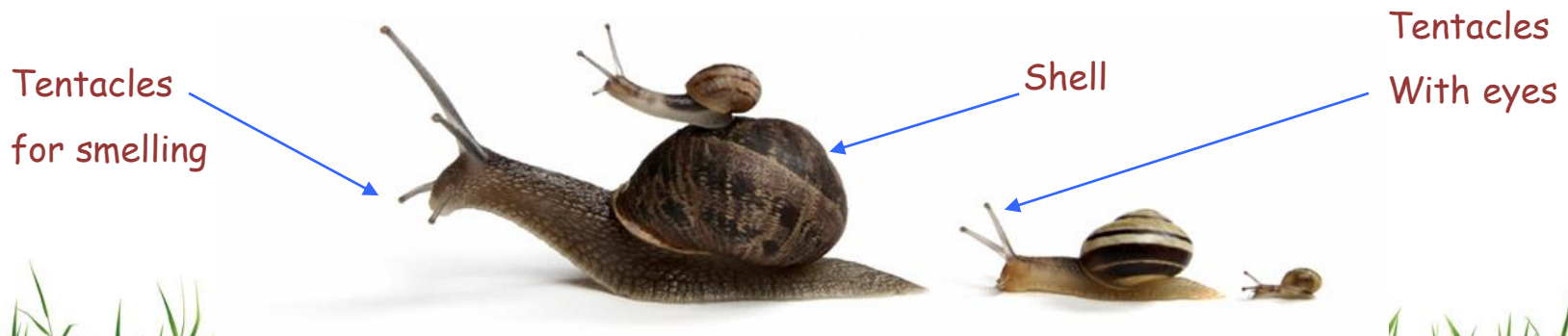
Live in dark, damp habitats. Can you think of a good snail habitat?

Have soft bodies and sometimes hard shell

Have long tentacles with eyes on them

They eat plants so they are called **herbivores**

What do you think eats slugs and snails?



# Earthworms

Earthworms live in the soil.

They have soft bodies that are made of segments.

They eat soil and make it healthy for trees and plants to grow.

They have a mouth but no eyes or nose.



Can you think of anything that might eat worms?

# Insects

Insects have 6 legs.

They have feelers called antennae to smell and feel.

Insects have 3 body parts

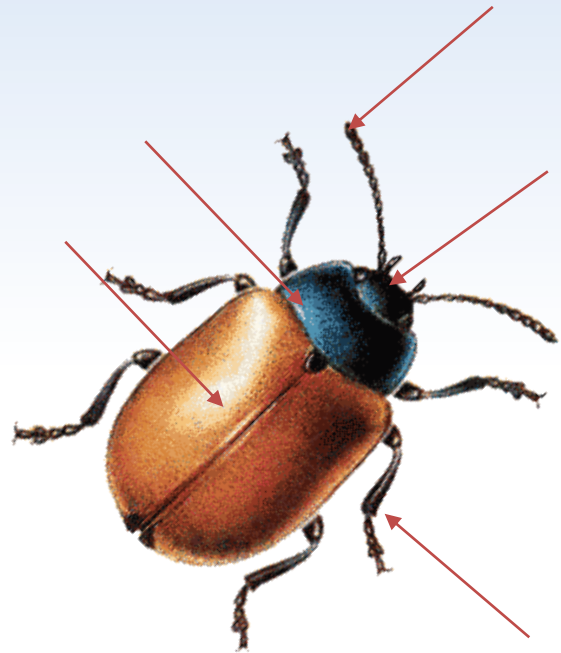
Head

Thorax (Belly)

Abdomen (Bottom)

Some insects have wings.

Some insects are herbivores and some are carnivores.



Can you label this insect?

# How many insects can you name?



Ladybird



Butterfly



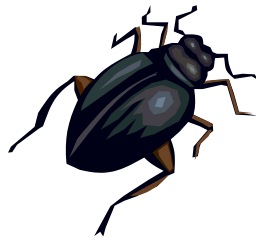
Bee



Ant



Grasshopper



Beetle



Fly



Dragonfly



# Spiders

Spiders have **8 legs**.

They have a hard outer skeleton.

They do not have antennae.

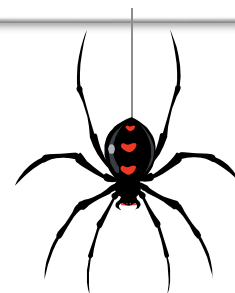
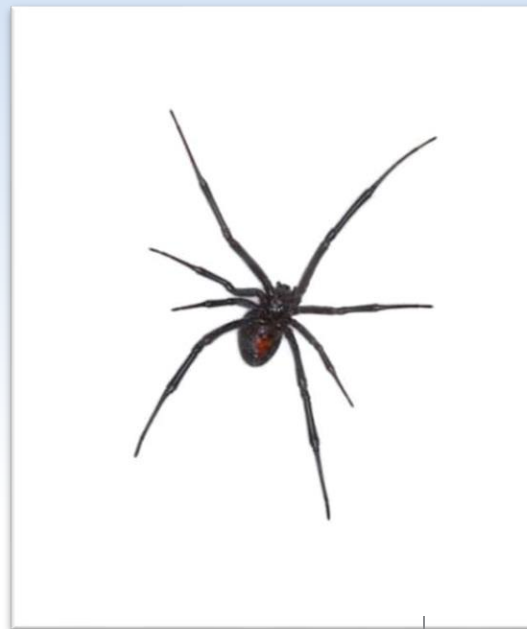
They use their front legs for catching food.

They are **carnivores**.

Some spiders spin webs to catch their prey.

Some spiders hide and pounce on their prey.

Spiders are **predators**.



# Woodlice

Woodlice have **14 legs**.

They have 2 antennae.

They have a hard outer skeleton.

They live in dark damp habitats.

They are **herbivores**.

They are related to crabs and lobsters.

As they grow they **moult**. This means that they shed their old skin and grow a new one!



Some people call them slaters

# Centipedes

Centipedes are reddish brown.

They have 2 antennae.

They have segmented bodies.

They have 1 pair of legs on each body segment.

They usually have about 15 pairs of legs and can move very fast.

They are **carnivores** and even eat other centipedes!

They are **predators**.



# Millipedes

Millipedes live in the soil.

Their body is made of segments.

They have 2 pairs of legs on each body segment.

They are **herbivores**.

If they are frightened they roll up into a ball.



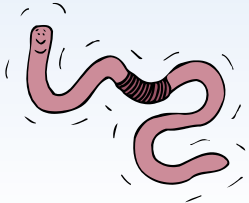


# Helpful minibeasts



Some bees make honey.

All bees help flowers to grow.



Worms make the soil healthy for plants to grow.



Ladybirds help gardeners by eating aphids.

Can you think of any harmful minibeasts?



# Lifecycle

Some minibeasts have a life cycle where the young minibeast is very different from the adult.

Look at the life cycle of a butterfly.

Can you see the 4 different stages?

Can you put these in the right order?  
Chrysalis, Egg, Butterfly, Caterpillar

