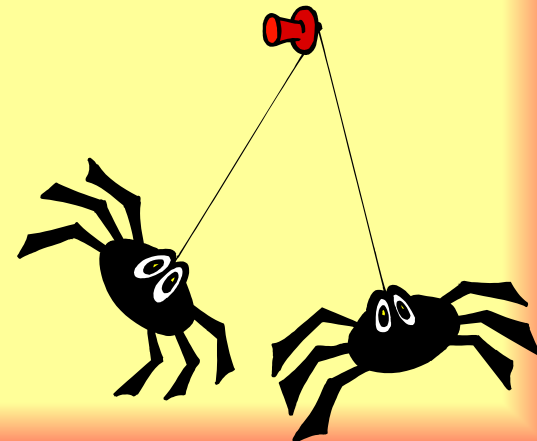
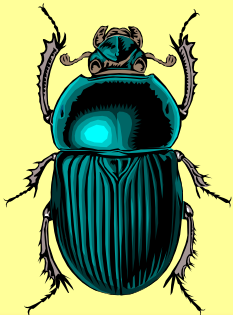


Mini Beasts



Exploring the bugs in our
environment



Ants

Ants eat plants
and other
insects

Ants like
to live in
big groups



The queen
ant lays all
the eggs

Flying ants only
fly when it is
warm and humid

Woodlice

Woodlice
are not
insects, but
crustaceans



They eat
leaves, grass
mulch and
rotten wood

They roll up in to
a ball when they
feel threatened

They live in damp
places

Stag Beetle

The Stag Beetle is the largest British insect



They eat small insects

They live mainly in rotten wood

The larva live for 3 - 5 years but the adult beetle only lives from May - August

Worms

Worms
are both
sexes



Worms will
eat most
rotting
plants

Gardeners love
worms because
they add air to
the soil

A worm does not have
any bones

Spiders are not actually insects because they have 8 legs

Spiders are called arachnids



Spiders eat flies and other small insects

Spiders produce webs and use these to catch their prey. The spider silk is very strong and very fine.

Most ladybirds feed on aphids, whitefly and mealy bugs.

The bright colour of their body is to scare away predators.

When they are disturbed, the ladybird will discharge drops of yellow, bitter, smelly liquid from their body.

Adult ladybirds hibernate through the winter.



Ladybird larvae

Ladybirds



They lay their eggs from late spring to early summer.

The larvae hatch from the eggs. They then start to eat lots of aphids.

After three weeks the larvae attach themselves to a leaf and form a pupa. After about two weeks the ladybird appears out of it.

Caterpillars and butterflies



These start life as an egg on the underside of a leaf.

The egg hatches between three and twelve days later.

The caterpillar then starts to eat leaves and gradually grows to full size over two weeks.

The caterpillar will then attach itself to a twig head down and change into a chrysalis.

This takes a few hours.

About two weeks later the chrysalis begins to open and a butterfly emerges.



Chrysalis
(pupa)

The butterfly has to wait for its wings to dry and stiffen before they can fly.



Bees

Bees are flying insects.

They live in large groups called colonies.

Their home is called a hive.

They have two sets of wings.



They collect nectar and pollen from flowers using their proboscis(a long tube from the mouth).

The male bees are called Drones.

The Honey bee flaps its wings over 11000 times per minute.

Earwigs

The earwig mainly comes out at night. In the day they hide in dark crevices.

They mainly eat plants, but sometime eat other insects.



Earwigs have wings but rarely use them.

You are most likely to see them from the spring through to the autumn.

The female earwig lays 20 -30 eggs.

When they hatch she feeds and tends to them until they can look after themselves.

cockchafer

Cockchafers are found mainly in woodland, farmland and gardens.

They are usually seen flying around from May through to July.



After 20 days they hatch and the larvae remains in the soil for two years. They feed on the roots of plants.

When they are about 5cm long they pupate in the soil.

They have a three year life cycle.

10-20 eggs are laid in the soil (about 20cms down).

Larvae



In the autumn they change into a cockchafer, but remain in the soil until the following Spring. They will then come to the surface .

