

# Minibeast facts

Minibeasts are small animals that don't have a backbone

– snails, spiders, beetles, slugs, worms, ants, butterflies, starfish, crabs and more...



wasps live in nests of around 10,000 workers and one queen  
they eat fruit, nectar from flowers and other insects  
they build paper nests from chewing wood and other materials  
wasps can sting if they feel threatened



dragonflies have been on the earth before dinosaurs were around  
their eyes have 30,000 lenses – human eyes have one  
they have two sets of wings and can fly backwards and in loops  
after they first hatch, they live under water for about a year



honey bees can be found all over the world  
bees can sting, but only once  
honey bees talk to each other by dancing  
they make honey using nectar from flowers



a fly beats its wings 200 times a second  
they can walk upside down using their sticky toe pads  
a house fly lives for about 21 days  
if a house fly sees a group of flies, it will join them



moths have hairy bodies to keep them warm  
they are attracted to lights  
they use the moon to help them navigate  
there are over 24,000 different species in Britain



butterflies taste with their feet  
they don't have mouths but drink with a long 'tongue'  
butterflies start as eggs, then caterpillars before becoming butterflies  
people used to call them "flutter-bys"



aphids are tiny insects that suck juices from plants  
there are hundreds of different species  
most are green or black, but some are pink, red, yellow or purple  
some species will only stay on one type of plant



you will usually see snails when it's damp or at night  
if the weather's too dry, they can hide in their shells for months  
they have four tentacles – two are eyes and two are for feeling  
they lay about 100 eggs in an underground nest



woodlice live in damp, dark places under rocks and logs  
they have 14 legs and a hard grey shell  
as they get bigger, their small shell falls off and they grow a new one  
they are related to lobsters and crabs



harvestmen have eight long, slim legs and are also known as "daddy longlegs"  
they are not spiders as they only have one body part instead of two  
they only have one pair of eyes, unlike spiders who have eight  
they eat other minibeasts



a grasshopper can jump 20 times its own length  
most grasshoppers have two pairs of wings  
they have five eyes  
they make music by rubbing their wings together or on their legs



the word "centipede" means "a hundred legs", but most only have 30  
they can live for up to three years  
they eat other minibeasts and even other centipedes  
if a centipede loses a leg it can grow another one to replace it

