

What I should already know

- Life cycle of a plant
- Sexual reproduction in plants

Key Vocabulary

antennae	A pair of long, thin sensors attached to the head of an arthropod.
camouflage	Ability to blend in with surroundings
consumer	A person or animal that eats something in a food chain.
exoskeleton	A hard outer layer that supports and protects an animal's body.
habitat	The environment where an animal lives.
invertebrate	An animal with no spine.
metamorphosis	A process by which an animal's body changes structure.
mandible	A mouth part that grasps and cuts.
microhabitat	A smaller place or environment where a living thing lives.
mimicry	The ability to copy something else.
moult	To lose skin, feathers or hair as part of a natural change or growth.
organism	A living thing such as a plant, animal, bacteria or virus.
predator	An animal that kills and eats other animals.
producer	A living thing that can make its own food using energy from the Sun.
segment	A part of an insect's body.
venom	A poisonous substance that animals use to injure, paralyse or kill their prey.

Knowledge

Definition

A minibeast is a small animal without a spine. The scientific name for an animal without a backbone is an invertebrate. To protect their soft bodies, some minibeasts have developed a soft, outer shell. This is called an exoskeleton.

Habitats

Minibeasts live in different habitats all over the world. Many minibeasts live in microhabitats, such as rock pools, bushes, under logs and among leaf litter. These microhabitats provide food, shelter and protection. Some minibeasts create their own homes. Bees create a honeycomb to store food and raise young. Wasps make nests from chewed wood and saliva.

Deadly minibeasts

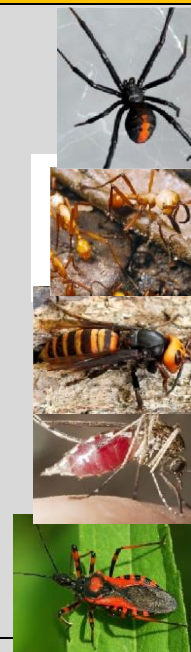
The black widow spider produces venom 15 times stronger than a rattlesnake. They only bite in self defence, so deaths are rare.

Army ants work together to attack animals with their powerful mandibles. They can kill thousands of animals in one raid.

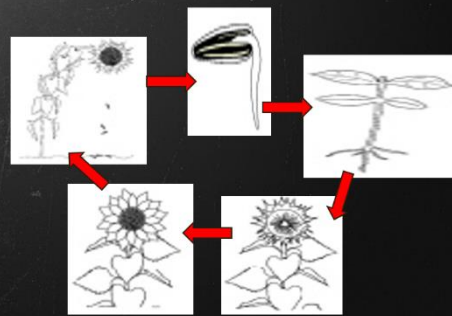
A sting from the Asian giant hornet can be very painful and the venom can cause an allergic reaction.

The mosquito bites its victims to drink their blood. Mosquito bites can spread deadly diseases, such as malaria or yellow fever.

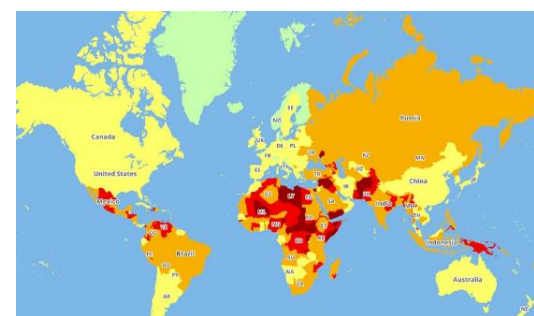
The assassin bug is also known as the kissing bug because it bites its victims near their lips. The bites can cause Chagas disease, which can kill humans.



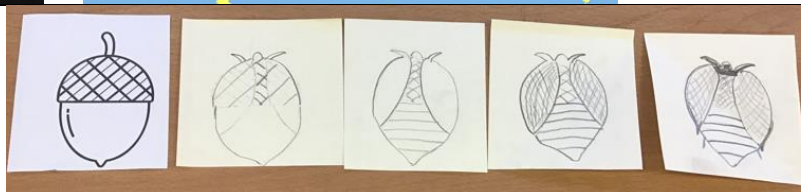
The life cycle of a plant



Mapping deadly minibeasts



Metamorphosis Art

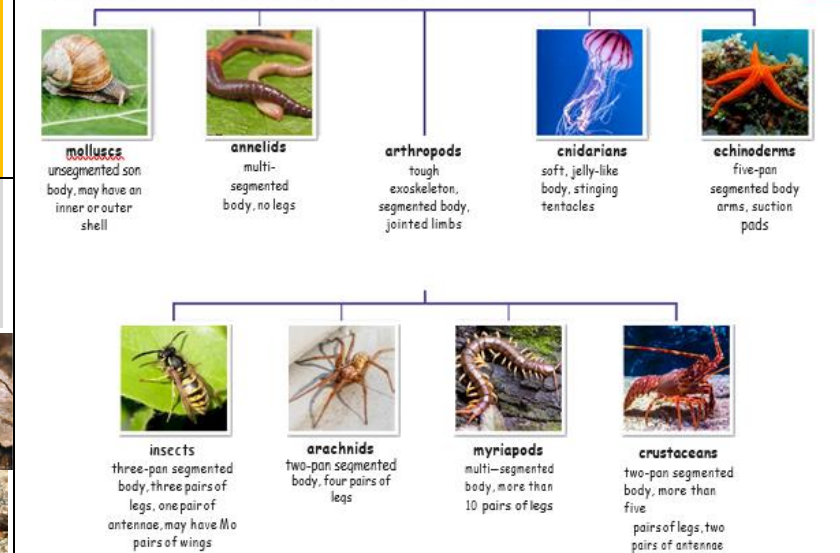


What I will know by the end of this unit

- How to classify minibeasts
- The location of some deadly minibeasts around the world
- How to compare lifecycles of invertebrates

Classifying invertebrates

There are thousands of invertebrate species all over the world that come in a varied of shapes, sizes and colours.



The life cycle of insects that complete metamorphosis involves four main stages:

