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Learning and Participation Resource Pack

Minibeasts

Suitable for KS1



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Overview

This pack will help to spark the imagination and get the participant moving around to explore and understand more about minibeasts.

Lesson Ideas

Warm up/Icebreakers

20 Second Morph Game

- You call the name or show an image of a minibeast ([see resources](#)). The participants have 20 seconds to morph into the minibeast. You can add sound effects too.

Dance Warm-up

- Using a song of your choice, warm up your muscles. Include star jumps, running on the spot and stretches.

Task ideas/starting points

Exercise 1: A minibeasts garden - Using the imagination

- Make sure you have a clear space to move around. Play the music, *A Bug's Life Suite* ([see link in resources](#)) quietly in the background to create an atmosphere.
- Ask the participant to sit with you at one end of your clear space. Ask the participant to imagine that they are very small, as small as a minibeast.
- Then ask them to tell you some things they might be able to see in this garden...grass, a bench, a pond, stones? Will these things seem big or small to them if they are minibeasts?
- Next you ask the participant to move around the space and listen to what you say. Start describing the garden and give instructions to the participant.

- You can create the story yourself and include other minibeasts, obstacles and sound effects. The participants can think of ideas too!

Here is an example story:

“push your way through the tall grass. You come to some stones, but they seem gigantic! Try to climb up and over them. Over in the dirt you see a worm. Wriggle like the worm until you come to the pond. WOW look, there’s a big frog on a massive lily pad jumping up and down! Jump like the frog, what sound does it make? A bee buzzes in the air making its way to a beautiful flower. A spider scurries across the grass then climbs up the shed weaving to make their web ...”

Exercise 2: Drama Scripts

- Using the scripts provided (*see resources*) get the participant to read the script aloud and choose the part they would like to play.
- Discuss with the participant how the script could be performed. How would the minibeast move around whilst talking?
- Rehearse the mini play and then perform it.

Task developments:

- To develop this, you can swap around who plays which character.
- You can also try and learn the script off by heart, so you don’t need to read it.
- You could create props such as masks to use in the performance.

Differentiation for lower/higher ability:

- Lower ability - Read the script out as a story to the participant. Get them to act out the story with you or make up their own story!
- Higher ability - Get the participants to write their own scripts and be in charge of directing it.

Exercise 3: Minibeast Dance

Dance - *Ugly Bug Ball*

- This piece of music tells a story. Get the participant to think of actions/movements that go with the lyrics (*see resources*). Then act out the actions/movements with the music and you will have created a dance!
- Rehearse the dance then perform it. You can also add costumes and props!

Creative Task - *The Wiggly Worm*

- What you will need: A stick and some ribbon (string will work!)
- To make: Tie and stick the ribbon/string to the end of the stick.
- Tell the participant to imagine the ribbon is a wiggly worm.
- Play some music (*see resources*) and get the participant to move and dance around with the ribbon creating different patterns.



Task developments:

- Using some of the music ideas (*see resources*), ask the participant to create a dance about a minibeast of their choice. Or you can create a dance and teach it to them.
 - Rehearse the dance then perform it. You can also add costumes and props!
- Here are some examples of movements for different minibeasts:
 - Bees - use quick movements such as wiggling and flapping wings whilst moving around quickly in the space.
 - Butterfly - use gentle and graceful movements such as flapping your wings and turning around.
 - Frogs / grasshoppers - use big jumps in the air.

Differentiation for lower/higher ability:

- Lower ability - Put on the music and get the participant to improvise their own dance to the music.

- Higher ability - Get the participant to take on the role of a choreographer (someone that creates the dance) and create their own dance. Then get the participant to teach you the dance step by step.

Cool Down Ideas

Dance Cool Down

- Using a song of your choice (a slower song), do some simple stretches including touching your toes, rolling your head in a circular motion and shoulders to cool down and relax the body.

Drama Cool Down

- Play the music *Bug's Life Suite* (see resources).
- Ask the participant to lie on the floor, listen to the music and imagine they are in a garden.
- Then ask the participant to relax different parts of their body until they are completely relaxed. *E.g. relax you head, relax your legs etc.*

Outcome

The participant will have used their imagination to learn about minibeasts including how they move around and what they do by using both drama and dance. They will have developed communication skills both verbally through the drama scripts and non-verbally through the dance movement. New vocabulary will have been learnt and the participants should have a greater knowledge of what minibeasts do and their importance in the world.

Resources and useful links

Resource 1: Worm Script

Sam: Excuse me Worm, what is your job?

Worm: Well I help to increase the amount of air and water that gets into the soil. I am a big help on farms!

Sam: What do you do to help farmers?

Worm : By wiggling in the dirt we mix the soil that has been fertilized by the famer.

Sam: Wow that is amazing!

Worm: We also wiggle really deep into the soil making tunnels, so water can spread in the soil!

Sam: And that will help things grow!

Resource 2: Bumble Bee Script

BEE 1: Ever see pollination up close?

BEE 2: No!

BEE 1: I'll show you! I pick up some pollen here, sprinkle it over there.

BEE 2: That's amazing. Why do we do that?

BEE 1: That's pollen power. More pollen, more flowers, more nectar and more honey for us.

Resource 3: Spider Script

Fly: BUZZZZZZZZ ... AHH I'M TRAPPED!

Charlotte: He'll make a perfect breakfast for me.

Wilbur: Ooooh. You mean you eat flies?

Charlotte: Why, certainly. I eat anything that gets caught in my web. I have to live, don't I?

Wilbur: Why, yes, of course. Do they taste good?

Charlotte: Delicious.

Fly: HELP ME!

Wilbur: It just seems an odd sort of diet.

Charlotte: Do you realise that if I didn't eat them, there would be so many bugs they would destroy the earth? Spiders are really very useful creatures.

Resource 4: Ugly Bug Ball Lyrics

Once a lonely caterpillar sat and
cried
To a sympathetic beetle by his side
I've got nobody to hug
I'm such an ug-i-ly bug

Then a spider and a dragonfly replied
If you're serious and want to win a
bride
Come along with us, to the glorious
annual ugly bug ball

Come on let's crawl (gotta crawl
gotta crawl)
To the ugly bug ball (to the ball to the
ball)
And a happy time we'll have there,
one and all and the ugly bug ball

While the crickets click their cricky
melodies
All the ants were fancy dancing with
the fleas
Then up from under the ground
The worms came squirming around
Oh, they danced until their legs were
nearly lame
Every little crawling creature you
could name

Everyone was glad
What a time they had
They were so happy they came

Come on let's crawl (gotta crawl
gotta crawl)
To the ugly bug ball (to the ball to the
ball)
And a happy time we'll have there,
one and all and the ugly bug ball

The our caterpillar saw a pretty
queen
She was beautiful and yellow black
and green

He said would you care to dance
Their dancing lead to romance
Then she sat upon his caterpillar
knee

And he gave his caterpillar queen a
squeeze

Soon they'll honeymoon
Build a big cocoon

Thanks to the ugly bug ball
Come on let's crawl (gotta crawl
gotta crawl)
To the ugly bug ball (to the ball to the
ball)
And a happy time we'll have there,
one and all and the ugly bug ball

Resource 5: Pictures for Flash Cards

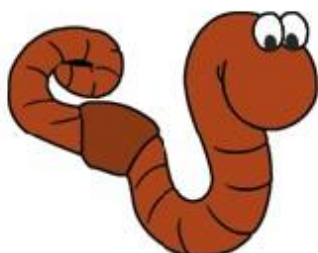
Grasshopper



Butterfly



Worm



Bumble Bee



Spider



Resource 6:

Bug's Life Suite : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nn0GYv_ltuE

Ugly Bug Ball: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fsKP-EtByA>

Mini Beast Dance Songs:

Bumble Bee -

- Sugar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSYHkb6C07o>
- Flight of the Bumble Bee:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYAJopwEYv8>
- Bumble Bee Boogie:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rFLPUTfsVs>

Butterfly -

- Butterfly Fly Away:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omEPksSPgWU>
- Here Comes the Sun:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_VI7_aBeQmY

Worm -

- Wiggly Woo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdWsez-CD5o>
- Indiana Jones Theme: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bTpp8PQSog>

Dance Warm up Songs:

- Happy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0m3Lfkz4>
- Can't Stop the Feeling:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxRothF-QE4>
- September: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kU9S8BI_j4

Cool Down Songs:

- Million Dreams: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rxgAh1bnHU>
- A dream is a wish your heart makes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhBRa9n1aC0>

Mini-Beasts Playlist:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6xkewvP3PzdkBDcs6Wnkoq?si=f074WV-ARhyhXmsnkjSqyQ>

Sing Along Songs:

<https://open.spotify.com/album/3gaDCsEhhbGJQXww6o4UxT?si=8GSOGKseQZOoGghlHL3BZA>

Dance Ideas

Bumble Bee Boogie:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rFLPUTfsVs>

Ugly Bug Ball: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQ5htcacD28>

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