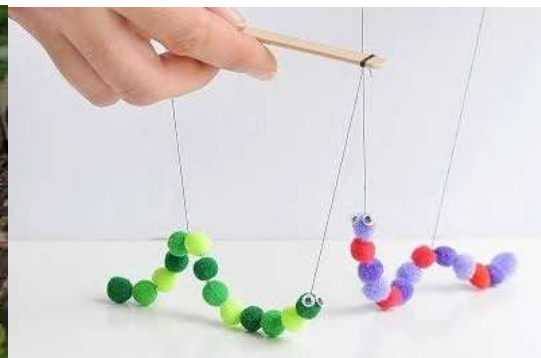


Term 3 Topic ideas (art, craft, science and some gardening)

Here are a few more art and craft activities linked to our topic of 'Minibeasts'. These can be done by using materials you might have around the house. (What about making a Cheerio worm / millipede puppet if you have no pom poms?!)



BBC Bitesize have a number of great art videos.

Why don't you watch how to do a technique called 'pointillism' and make a minibeast picture using this style?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zs9yj6f>

What about this one? It is a video to show you how to make a minibeast mobile.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/makes/presenters-minibeast-mobile>

Here are some novel ideas for lunchtime minibeast treats!
Send me some pictures to see how you get on!



The C2k Newsdesk has a great article called: 'What's the buzz?' all about life inside a busy bee hive. You should read it and watch the video! There are also art and craft ideas in the article.

<https://newsdesk.c2kschools.net/c/newsdesk/news/15950>

The Woodland Trust have loads of nature activities for families are at home.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/03/kids-nature-activities-self-isolation/>

Here are some ideas for minibeast hotels and gardening projects.



I made these a couple of years ago. They worked really well and could hang at the side of a shed! If well-stuffed, these will sit happily on the ground too. Re-using old plastic bottles is good for the environment! Using sticks, twigs, pinecones, even leaves from around the garden works really well.



This minibeast hotel is even easier, just use some bamboo cane tied tightly with string - then hang!!



This minibeast hotel is made from an old terracotta pot and some straws. There is some greaseproof paper to line the bottom of the pot and straws are tied in small groups to aid stability. Simple and effective for observing minibeasts at ground level!



Re-use old wellies to plant in! They can even be hung up!
 Or use two plastic cups to create a mini-green house that can sit on your windowsill as your little plant begins to grow!



What about making an old-fashioned grass head?! You need an old pair of tights or pull ups (from Mum), some compost with a little bit of sawdust and some grass seed. Decorate it as you want and water each day!

Here are two great ideas for labelling your plants!



There are lots of eco ideas for kids, here are a few of my favourites!



Use the bottom of your plastic bottle as a plant pot. Decorate it as a minibeast or another animal we learned about this year.
(Take care with the top edge when cut, perhaps cover in tape.)



Paint and decorate a plant pot. Fill it with compost and some seeds and watch the plants grow!
(You could use a packet of seeds designed to attract bees or butterflies.)

One could even be used as a present for Granny when you get to see her again!

What about making a bird feeder?

There are loads of examples online, but I especially liked this one from the Woodland Trust. Let me know how it goes, I would love to get our whole school making them when we get back to school!



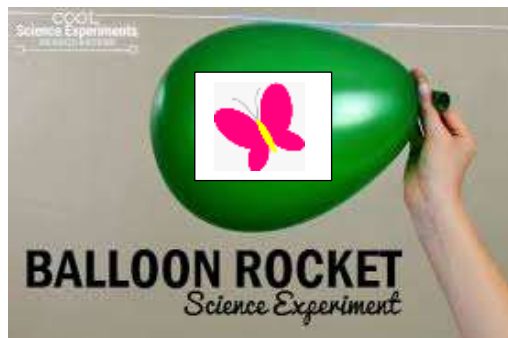
How to make a toilet roll bird feeder
This is messy fun kids will love to get stuck into and it will help them learn about the birds in your garden.

You can make this simple feeder with items you already have at home:

- Smother a cardboard tube in peanut butter (no added salt and sugar versions are suitable for birds).
- Roll it in bird seed and thread some string through the hole.
- Tie it up in your garden where birds will feel safe eating.

How many garden birds will you spot?

Could you make a butterfly fly or a ladybird crawl without touching them?



Use this rocket idea to make a butterfly fly without touching it!

- Blow up a balloon and hold it closed tight.
- Attach a straw onto the top, then stick a butterfly (or other flying insect) onto the side.
- Carefully thread the wool / string through the straw and hold the string taught and straight between two people. (You might find this threading easier before blowing the balloon – experiment with that!)
- When the string is tight, let the balloon go!
The air coming out of the balloon should make it move!



BALLOON ROCKETS

Focus: Physics

A balloon provides a simple example of how a rocket engine works. The air trapped inside the balloon pushes out the open end, causing the balloon to move forward. The force of the air escaping is the “action”; the movement of the balloon forward is the “reaction” predicted by Newton’s Third Law of Motion.



For students to create a rocket balloon which travels the furthest

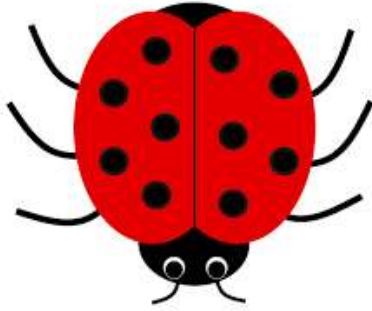


Equipment:

- A drinking straw
- Different shapes and sizes of balloon
- A peg
- Sticky tape
- Stop watch
- Washing up liquid
- Two chairs
- A metre ruler / measuring tape

Instructions:

- Blow up the balloon, fold over the neck and secure it with the peg it to stop the air coming out.
- Thread the string through the straw.
- Tie the string to two chairs about 2 metres apart.
- Stick the balloon to the straw as illustrated in the diagram.
- Remove the clip from the neck of the balloon and watch your rocket zoom away.
- One person measure the distance the balloon travels and one person time how long it takes the balloon to travel to a stop. Make a note of the time taken / distance travelled.
- Repeat the experiment after covering the string with washing up liquid, discussing the effect of friction with the students.



Can you make a ladybird crawl without touching it?

You need 2 people to do this experiment.

- Draw your ladybird or other crawling insect onto card and cut it out. (You could use a cereal box)
- Stick an old toilet roll tube or a wide straw under your picture.
- Cut two long pieces of string / wool the same length.
- Thread the string through the tube / straw.
- Each person takes two ends.
- One person holds theirs together and the other opens them wide (quickly). Then do the opposite, (open strings, closed strings).
- The force used to wrench the strings apart will propel the insect to the other end of the strings!



Minibeast life cycles

Part of our topic work in term 3 would have involved learning about lifecycles. We would have got some butterfly eggs to study their lifecycle in our room. It is always a day of mixed emotions for the children when the butterflies are released at the end.

Here is a fun craft idea using pasta that we would have done in class.



BBC Bitesize have ideas for how to write a minibeast factfile (29//4/20).

There are some nice videos about minibeasts.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrvfy9q>

BBC Bitesize also have great KS1 Science videos about animals and their habitats.

They have a video called 'What are minibeasts?'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z6882hv/articles/z9fkwmn>

There are others that link to topics we have covered this year, so they are a good way to revisit topics.

What is a polar habitat?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zx882hv/articles/z3sr4wx>

What is an ocean habitat?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zx882hv/articles/zsfkd2p>