Now it is your turn to make your very own minibeast hotel following these simple steps. It could be for just one bug or you can make room for a whole host of garden creatures!

a) Pick a spot to build your hotel. Not all minibeasts like the same conditions so choose somewhere that gets both shade and sunshine.

b) Stack logs and old wooden pallets together to create a tower.

c) Now start filling the gaps. Follow the ideas below and discover how different materials and spaces will attract all sorts of creepy crawlies.

### Feed the birds

By putting a nest box in your garden, you can provide a ready-made home for your garden birds. Make sure your nest box is hung in a sheltered place away from any bird feeders – nesting birds don’t want to be disturbed by those having their lunch!

### Hedgehog habitats

Logs and leaf piles make great hibernation spots for hedgehogs. Although hedgehogs are hard to spot because they come out at night, they are a gardener’s best friend as they love to eat the cheeky insects that nibble on our garden plants.

### 5 Can you put these three living things in the correct order on the food chain?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Producer</th>
<th>Prey</th>
<th>Predator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robin</td>
<td>Leaf</td>
<td>Worm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 6 Using the signs around you to help, list 3 things you would put in your garden to attract more birds:

1. 
2. 
3. 

### 7 There is one slimy minibeast in particular that gardeners hate and hedgehogs love. What do you think it is?

### 8 Holey logs:

Ask a helpful adult to drill holes in a small piece of wood. These little holes make the perfect, nesting spot for ladybirds.

### Dead wood and bark:

These provide dark shady spaces perfect for beetles, centipedes, spiders and woodlice.

### Bamboo canes:

Stuff hollow bamboo sticks inside an old plant pot to create a honeycomb effect, perfect for attracting solitary bees. Bees like warmth so make sure this part of the hotel gets plenty of sunshine.

### Straw, hay and leaves:

Damp, dark clumps of leaves are perfect for slugs and snails.

### Plastic bottles:

Squeeze a rolled up piece of cardboard inside an old plastic bottle. This will create lots of tiny hidey-holes which are an ideal home for little lacewing flies.
The Zoological Society of London found in a global study that bumblebees, beetles and butterflies are at a greater risk of extinction than lions and tigers. What can we do to help save our minibeasts? Take a walk through the Woodland Minibeast Trail and discover how you can make your garden more nature friendly.

**Habitats**

A habitat is a place where animals and plants live. A good habitat will provide everything a living thing needs to survive: water, food and shelter. Habitats come in all shapes and sizes; generally little creatures live in smaller habitats. A leaf can be the perfect habitat for a creepy crawly caterpillar, but would not be a big enough shelter for a fox!

**Buzzing bees and fluttering butterflies**

Bee and butterfly boxes provide a ready-made habitat for these creatures to hide from pesky predators.

2. Where in your garden would you put these houses, to attract the most butterflies and bees?

3. Some species of butterfly **hibernate** in the colder months and will use a butterfly box to stay warm and dry. Which seasons are you most likely to spot butterflies?

**What is hibernation?**

Hibernation is how some animals cope during the cold winter months. They will curl up in a safe space and go into a long deep sleep, storing up their energy until the temperatures get warmer!

**Food chains**

Looking at minibeasts is a great way to discover more about what creatures eat in the wild, and how they survive. Let's look at a simple food chain you would find in this area.

All food chains start with a plant. The plant is known as a **producer** as it can make its own food. Here, the plant is the **producer** and the beetle and hedgehog are **consumers**. An animal which eats another animal is called a **predator**. The animal that gets eaten is called the **prey**.