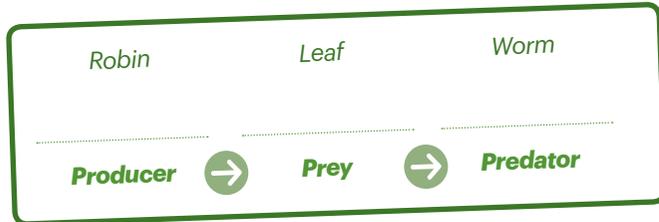


**5** Can you put these three living things in the correct order on the food chain?



### 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!

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

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....

### 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.

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

.....

**8** 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.

**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.

**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.



# THE WOODLAND MINIBEAST TRAIL

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!

**1** As you explore the Minibeast Trail today, think about how many different habitats you can spot. Make a note of them below:

.....

.....

.....

.....

## 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?

.....

.....

### 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!

**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?

.....

.....



Dragonflies have been around on the earth since before the dinosaurs!



## The Minibeast Hotel

Welcome to the Harewood Minibeast Hotel. Here we have created lots of different habitats to attract all sorts of insects and other invertebrates. Can you spot any?

**4** Draw what you have seen today in the box below:

## 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.



Plant



Beetle



Hedgehog



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**.