Children deepen their understanding of and respect for minibeasts by creating homes for them.

# Minibeast Magic 2



Keywords **discussion • critical thinking • outdoors action for nature • social studies**

**1.** Discussion and planning
Start by discussing why minibeasts are important as nature's recyclers. Ask the children if your school needs minibeasts. If they enjoyed Minibeast Magic 1, they'll likely agree! Guide the talk towards how we can attract minibeasts by creating the right habitat.

Important! Gently explain why bringing them to school is not a good idea (they may not survive the move, won't find the right shelter, or it's unfair to take them away from their natural home).

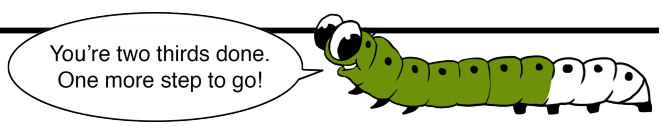
**2.** Discovering what minibeasts need
Think back to your first schoolyard tour. What kind of places did minibeasts like? Together, make a list of what's needed to build a good habitat. Do this outdoors if possible and pick the right spot as a group. Relate it to the idea of "home": just as children like certain things at home, so do minibeasts!

**3.** Comparing with MiniHome ideas
Back in class, look at the "Minibeast MiniHomes" suggestions in the Downloadable Material. Compare your list with the examples. Did you miss anything? Discuss where to get the materials in a way that doesn't harm other habitats.

**4.** Building the MiniHomes
Now it's time to create! Gather natural materials (twigs, logs, stones, leaves, pinecones, etc.) from the school grounds or from home. Work as a team to design and set up the MiniHomes in a safe, designated spot.

**5.** Watching and Wondering
Return to the MiniHomes regularly to see what happens. Which minibeasts move in? What changes can you observe? Keep a record together and celebrate any new visitors. Don't forget to encourage the children to tell others about their project.





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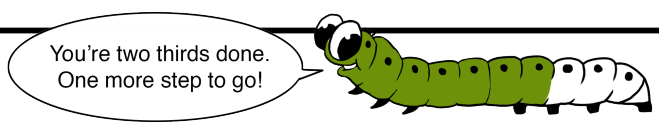
## Send photos of

- ☐ Children choosing the site for the homes
- ☐ Children building MiniHomes
- ☐ The completed MiniHomes.

## Resources & Equipment Needed

- Notebook and pen/pencil;
- Bug hotel materials, such as:
  - Sticks of cane/reed;
  - Logs;
  - Twigs;
  - Stones;
  - Bricks;
  - Pinecones;
  - Pots;
  - Pallets;
  - String.
- Woody home:
  - Logs;
  - Twigs.





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- Stony home:
- ○ Stones;
- ○ Rubble.



