



# MINIBEASTS







## THEMED PROGRAMME



## AIM

We're surrounded by hundreds of thousands of creepy crawlies, insects and bugs. Despite being small, there are lots of fascinating things to get to know about them. What will you learn and discover with this 'minibeasts' themed programme?

## ACTIVITIES

-  The Spider's Web Target Game
-  The Minibeast Alphabet
-  A Dangling Spider
-  'Which Minibeast Am I?' Game
-  Find Me a Minibeast That...
-  Transformed into a Butterfly

# MINIBEASTS

## » INTRODUCTION

Minibeasts, bugs, creepy crawlies... Whatever you like to call them, there's no doubt that they are incredible little creatures that make a big impact on our environment.

Minibeasts often make their homes wherever they can. This can be in places such as under logs and stones, in ponds, up trees, in soil etc. They can also find their way into our homes and make themselves comfortable tucked away in corners of rooms or in dark places.


## ? DID YOU KNOW?

- Minibeasts are invertebrates, which means they don't have a backbone.
- Examples include insects, spiders, beetles, snails, worms and centipedes.
- Because they don't have a skeleton inside their body, many minibeasts live in shells or have a hard covering to protect them.
- The largest worm in the UK was 40cm long.
- It's thought there are 27,000 different types of insect in the UK.



### GET ACTIVE: PLAYING GAMES


## THE SPIDER'S WEB TARGET GAME

- 1  Print copies of the 'Spider Web Scoring Sheets' or create your own versions. Spread these out on the floor, with the higher scoring sheets further away from the throwing line. You could even create a spider's web on the floor using masking tape, with the scoring sheets then placed on top of the web.
- 2 At one end of the room place a line of cones. This will be the throwing line.
- 3 Ask the group if they know what spiders like to catch in their webs and eat? Spiders will eat any insects they can catch in their web. This often includes flies.
- 4 Explain to the group that their job is to throw food such as flies (beanbags) towards the spider's web, trying to land their fly (beanbag) onto one of the scoring sheets positioned on the floor/spider's web. If any part of the fly (beanbag) is touching the sheet, they get those points.
- 5 This game can be played individually or in teams. The person/team with the most points at the end of the game, wins. Make sure to have equal number of throws before finishing the game.



### GET LEARNING: ME & MY WORLD

## THE MINIBEAST ALPHABET

- 1 Explain to the group that there are thought to be 900,000+ known types of insect around the world, with many more having not been discovered or identified yet. That's a lot of minibeasts!
- 2  Print a copy of the 'Minibeast Alphabet' sheet or create your own version.
- 3 As one big group, challenge the children to try and think of a minibeast (i.e. bug, insect etc) for each letter of the alphabet. As children call out the names, add these to the sheet.
- 4 Can the group find a minibeast for each letter? Which letters are the hardest to complete? If you are struggling, then a leader could use the internet to fill in the last few letters.



GET CREATIVE



15 MINUTES



IN THE  
CUPBOARD

## GET CREATIVE: ARTY & CRAFTY

# A DANGLING SPIDER

- 1 Give each child a black paper plate. Alternatively, you could use white plates and let children design the spider's body using colouring pens.
- 2 Glue two large googly eyes to the centre of the spider's body.
- 3 Use colouring pens to draw a mouth on to the plate. You could also draw some spider fangs with the mouth too.
- 4 Let children choose 8 pipe cleaners for their spider legs. Tape these to the back of the plate to create the legs, 4 legs on either side of the body. The pipe cleaners can then be bent to look like spider legs.
- 5 Use a hole punch to create a hole at the top of the spider's head.
- 6 Cut a piece of string/wool to about 15cm long. Tie this to the hole you've just created, helping to create the spider's web from which the spider can hang.
- 7 Children can then name their spider and use the string to hang it from somewhere at home.



### What you'll need:

- Black Paper Plate
- Pipe Cleaners
- Glue / Tape
- Large Googly Eyes
- String
- Holepunch
- Colouring Pens



GET LEARNING




10 MINUTES

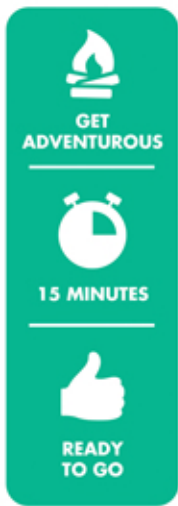


PREPARATION  
NEEDED

## GET LEARNING: ME & MY WORLD

# 'WHICH MINIBEAST AM I?' GAME

- 1  Print the Minibeast pictures (18 insects across two pages) and cut these up into their individual cards. Alternatively, you could make your own by writing the name of each minibeast on slips of paper.
- 2 Stick these pictures around your meeting space, try to place them in a variety of places and heights, so children can't find them straight away.
- 3 Split the group into two or more teams and sit them in different parts of the room.
- 4 A leader should have a copy of the 'Which Minibeast Am I?' game sheet. This has descriptions of the 18 minibeasts.
- 5 Each team should nominate one person to play. That child should stand up. A leader should then read out one of the minibeast descriptions.
- 6 Each team must then try and work out which minibeast has been described and send their nominated player to try and find that minibeast picture somewhere in the room.
- 7 The first person to find the picture and return it to the leader gets a point for their team.
- 8 Repeat the game until all the minibeasts have been found. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.



## GET ADVENTUROUS: EXPLORING THE WORLD AROUND ME FIND ME A MINIBEAST THAT..


Combine a bug hunt with a competitive game that will challenge children to search high and low.

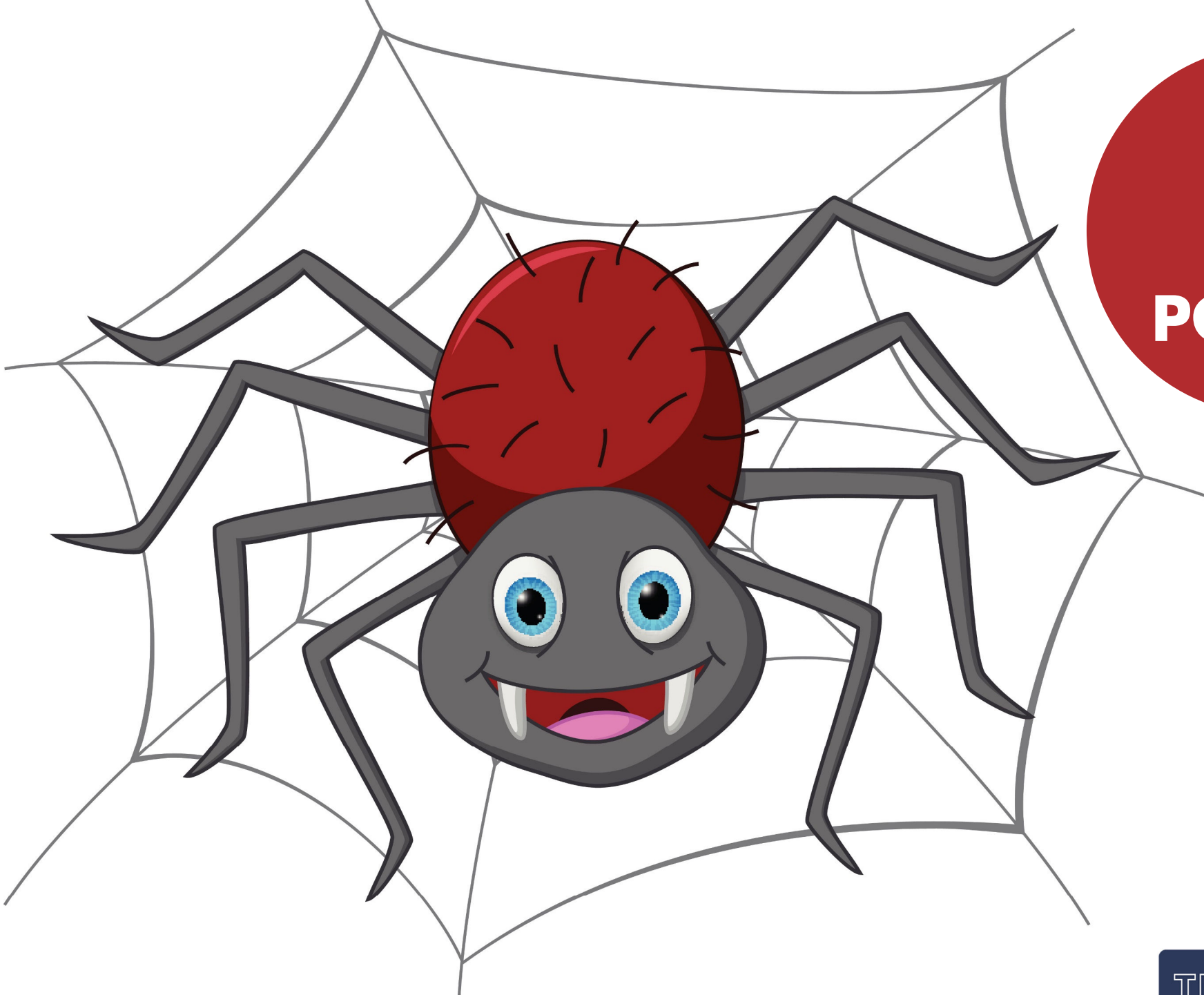
- 1 For this activity you'll need to have access to some outdoor space. Ideally this should be a woodland, local park, Church grounds etc.
- 2 Each child should be given something to collect bugs in. This could be an empty yogurt pot, a small plastic container or something similar. A small paintbrush would help collect bugs too.
- 3 Explain that you'll shortly call out a category and they'll need to race to find a bug that matches the category. Before starting the challenge, show the children the boundaries for your bug hunt.
- 4 Categories could include something with six legs, a bug that has a hard shell, a slimy bug, two insects that are the same, a bug that moves on its belly, an insect with spots and so on.
- 5 The first child to find the bug from that category gets a point. Continue the challenge with a new category. Children should release the bugs before starting a new category.



## GET INTO THE BIBLE: DEVELOPING MY FAITH TRANSFORMED INTO A BUTTERFLY

Consider how inviting God into your life is a bit like being transformed into a beautiful butterfly.

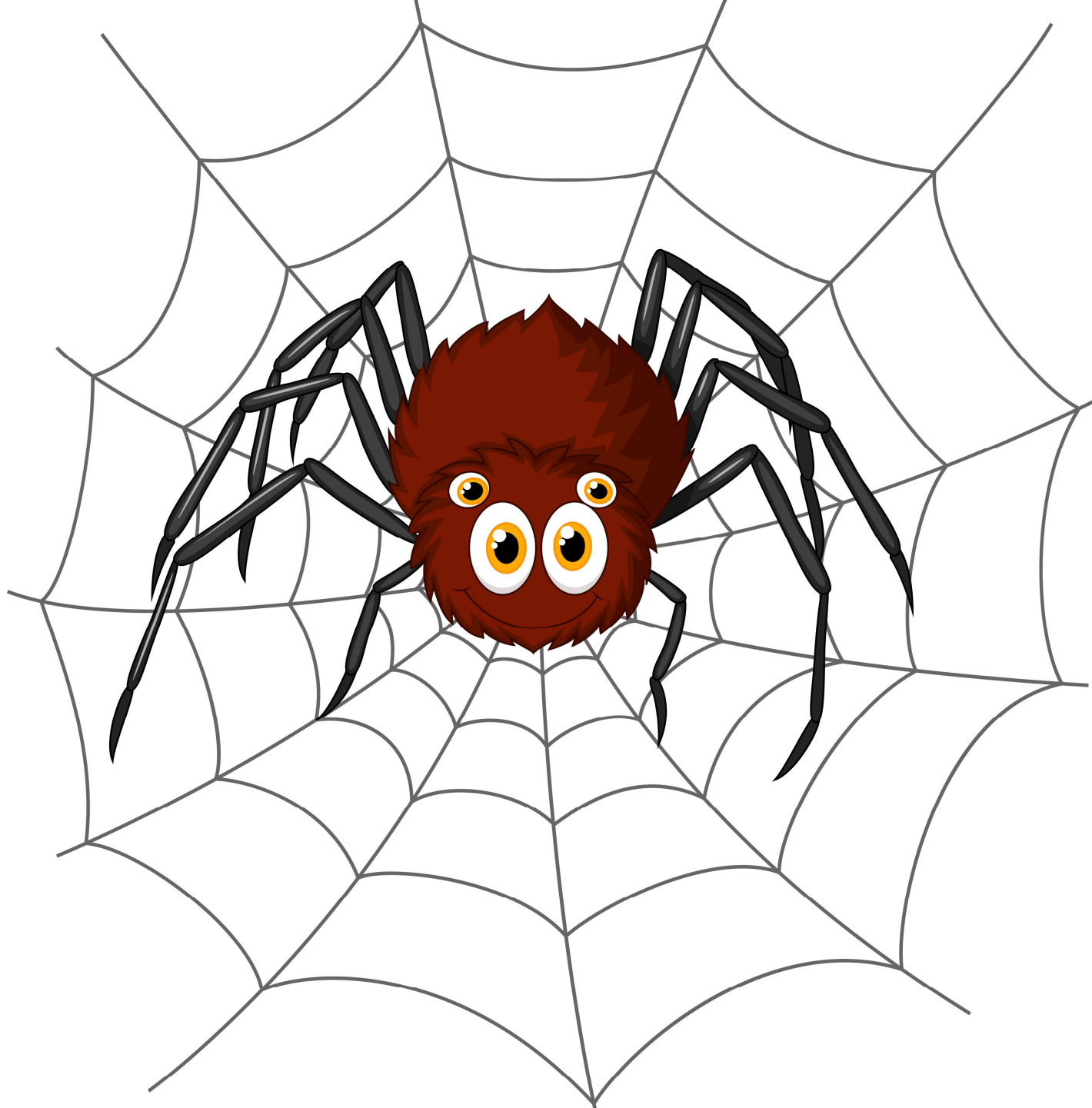
- 1 Ask the children if they know what a caterpillar becomes? A butterfly. Let children share anything they know about caterpillars and butterflies with the rest of the group.
  - 2 Watch the YouTube video '**How a Caterpillar Becomes a Butterfly**' by 'The Dodo' (<https://youtu.be/G3VMI-EY2DM>).
  - 3 After watching the video, ask the group what changes and differences they can see between a caterpillar and a butterfly. Examples might include the colours, its shape, the number of legs, how it moves, its name and so on.
  - 4 A lot of changes happen when a caterpillar is transformed into a butterfly. The old insect has gone and what looks like a completely new one is born.
  - 5 For most people, inviting God into their lives and becoming a Christian can be a little bit like transforming into a butterfly. Living a life where we trust God 100% can involve us having to make changes and be 'transformed' into a new person.
  - 6 These changes could include reading the Bible, talking to God in prayer, changing our words and actions, thinking and caring about others and so on.
  - 7 Only through lots of time and effort, a bit like when a caterpillar is growing and spending time in his cocoon, can we grow our butterfly wings and be transformed into a beautiful butterfly. Finish in prayer, asking God to help us in our journeys in becoming 'butterflies' with God.
-  **"When someone becomes a Christian, they become a brand new person inside. They are not the same anymore. A new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17**



**5**  
**POINTS**

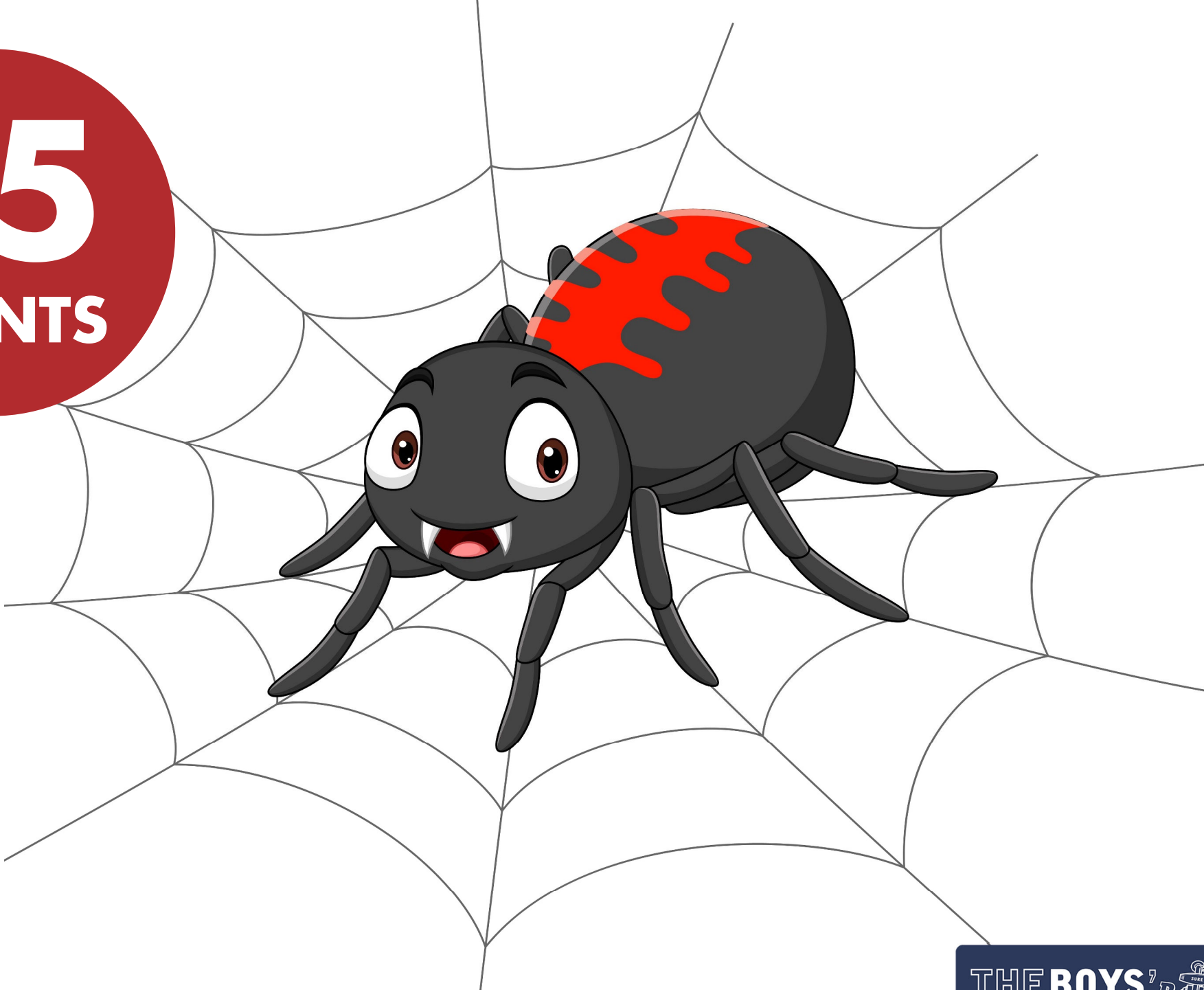
**5**  
**POINTS**





**10**  
**POINTS**

**15**  
**POINTS**

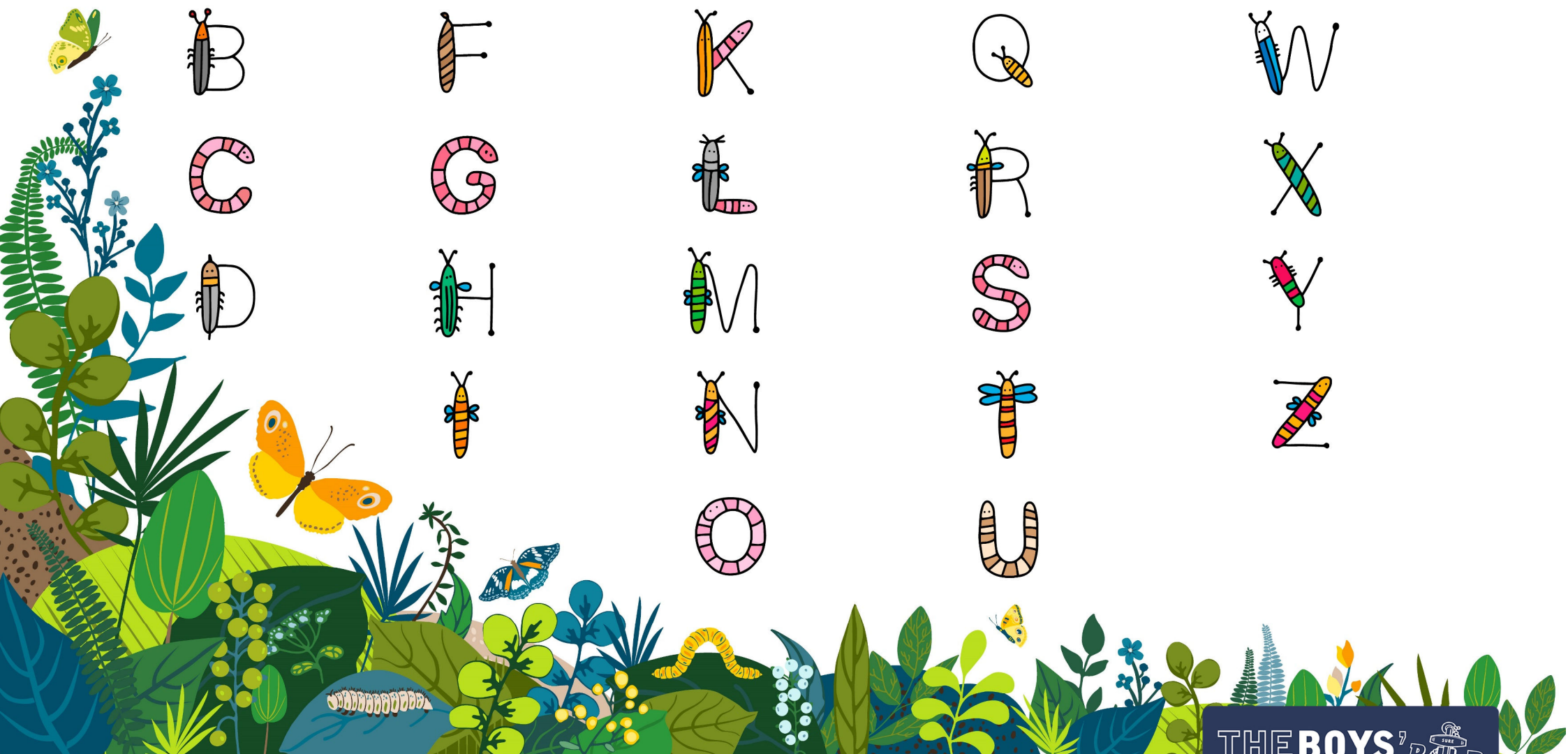
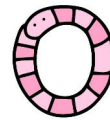
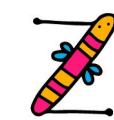
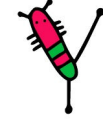
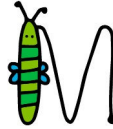
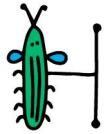
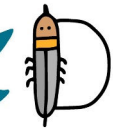
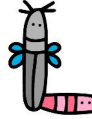
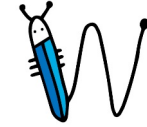
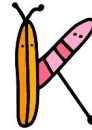
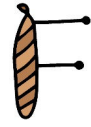
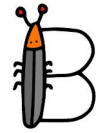
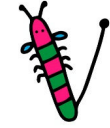
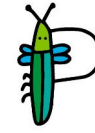
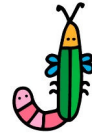
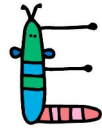




**20**  
**POINTS**

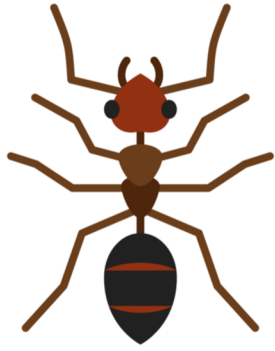


# THE MINIBEAST ALPHABET



# 'WHICH MINIBEAST AM I?' GAME

- I am slimy and without a shell (**Slug**)
- I make a buzzing noise and spiders like to eat me (**Fly**)
- I have many legs. My name means '100 legs' (**Centipede**)
- I am usually red with black spots, but I can sometimes be yellow, orange, brown or black. (**Ladybird**)
- I can 'sing songs' by rubbing my wings together (**Cricket**)
- I can only use my stinger once. After I do, I die. (**Bee**)
- I'm famous for being very slow and I carry my home on my back (**Snail**)
- I start my life as a caterpillar before transforming into something new (**Butterfly**)
- I have a yellow and black body, can sting you multiple times and I often can annoy you at a picnic (**Wasp**)
- I get my name from the fact I often look like I am praying (**Praying Mantis**)
- I may be tiny, but I can lift 20 times my body weight (**Ant**)
- I usually take about 60 minutes to create my web (**Spider**)
- I usually come out at night and I'm attracted to the light (**Moth**)
- I have two sets of wings. My outer set of wings look like part of my shell, with my other wings hidden underneath (**Beetle**)
- I can roll up into a ball when I feel threatened (**Woodlouse**)
- I can jump 10 to 20 times my body length about 1.6 metres. That's like you jumping the entire football pitch in one jump (**Grasshopper**)
- It is thought I received my name due to a false belief that I can enter your ear and lay eggs in your brain (**Earwig**)
- I am able to fly backwards (**Dragonfly**)



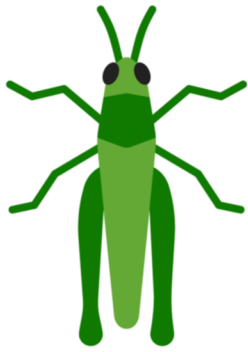
**ANT**



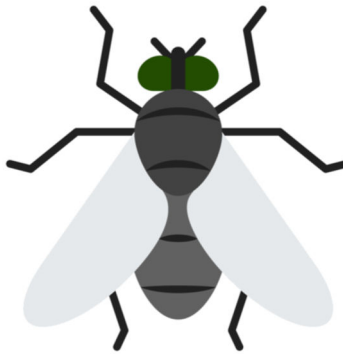
**BEE**



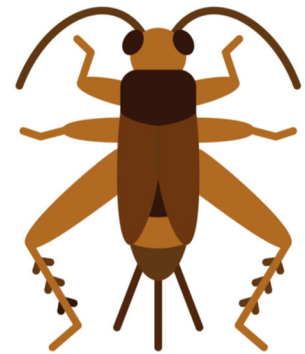
**SPIDER**



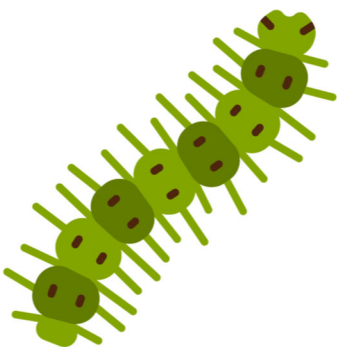
**GRASSHOPPER**



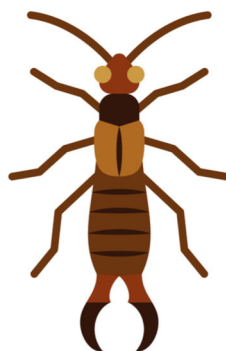
**FLY**



**CRICKET**



**CENTIPEDE**



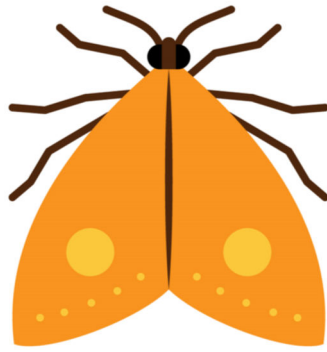
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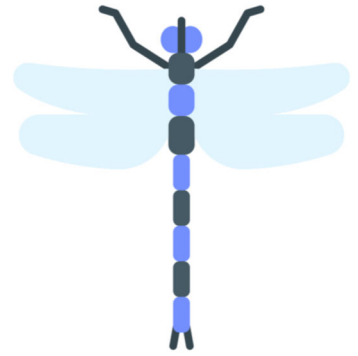
**PRAYING  
MANTIS**



**WASP**



**MOTH**



**DRAGONFLY**



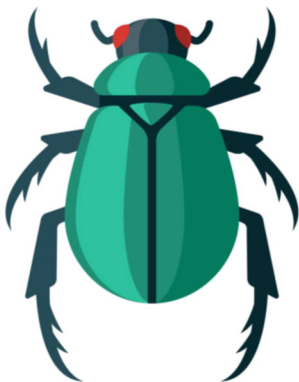
**LADYBIRD**



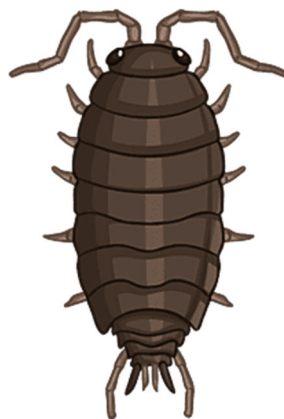
**SNAIL**



**SLUG**



**BEETLE**



**WOODLOUSE**



**BUTTERFLY**