

activity sheet

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MARVELLOUS MINI BEASTS

(and where to find them)

There are thousands of creatures all around us in nature...but to find them you have to look REALLY closely.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A small jam jar and lid with holes in (to examine them).
- An old metal spoon or small trowel.
- A pen/paper or phone to record your findings.

Damp days are best, so dress for the weather!



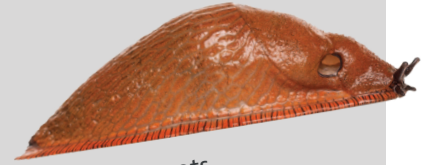
Let's go on a mini beast finding expedition!



EARTH WORM

Where to look... dig down into moist soil and look amongst dead plant matter.

Marvellous because... they recycle dead plants and their tunnels help air and water get into the soil.



SLUG

Where to look... under pots, containers, stones and amongst thick vegetation.

Marvellous because... they provide food for amphibians, insects, reptiles and lots of mammals.



SNAIL

Where to look... under rotting tree branches, wooden boards or garden furniture.

Marvellous because... they eat rotting vegetation, leaf litter, fungi and sometimes soil.



WOODLOUSE

Where to look... in damp places, under logs and leaf mulch.

Marvellous because... they are crustaceans and recycle nutrients by feeding on decaying wood.



GROUND BEETLE

Where to look... under leaf mulch or dig down in topsoil to reveal shallow burrows.

Marvellous because... they help pollinate plants and keep pests, like slugs and snails under control.

EARWIG

Where to look... dark sheltered spots, under stones, pots and loose tree bark.

Marvellous because... they eat aphids and other tiny pests to help protect plants from attack.



When you've finished looking at them, remember to **put them back** as they're doing an important job!

happy hunting!

