

DEBATE: HOW DO MINIBEASTS MOVE IN MEADOWS?

Meadows are important because of the high biodiversity (variety of life) that lives in them. Having lots of types of plants in meadows is vital in supporting a variety of mini-beasts and other animals.

The minibeasts that live in meadows have all got different roles to play and without them the meadows would not be able to thrive. Because they have different roles, minibeasts need to be able to move in different ways. In this series of activities we explore movement and use our knowledge of how mini-beasts move to discover more about their roles in our meadows



What is your favourite minibeast?

ACTIVITY 1

Minibeasts move in all sorts of different ways. Can you? Stand in a meadow and ask pupils to move like the word you call out. Below are some of the ways in which insect movement could be described.

Crawling, Creeping, Flapping, Fluttering, Skipping, Scuttling, Wriggling, Wiggling, Hopping, Jumping, Leaping

How do I move? Hold up cut out pictures of the cards overleaf. Ask pupils to call out words to describe how each minibeast moves.

ACTIVITY 2

Minibeasts have different roles within the ecosystem. **Decomposers** collect dead material and eat it and help to create rich soils. Herbivores eat plant materials. Herbivores are then eaten by carnivores (animals that eat other animals). The role of a pollinator is to help plants reproduce by spreading pollen around. All these different roles are important.

What do I do?

I move underground drawing plant material into the ground and eating it.

I move from flower to flower gathering nectar and pollen and pollinating plants.

I move along the ground collecting dead plant material and eating it.

I move up the stems and leaves of plants eating plant material.

I move along the ground hunting insects and eating them.

I am a pollinator

I am a decomposer

I am a primary consumer/herbivore

I am a carnivore

I am a decomposer

Discuss

Does the role a minibeast has affect how it moves?
How do you think earthworms have adapted to living underground?