

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Science: Microhabitats.

Last week we discussed what a habitat is and we looked at local habitats. Today we are going to be looking at microhabitats.

What do you think it means by microhabitat? (There is a clue in the word.)

I think a microhabitat is \_\_\_\_\_

Below is some information about microhabitats and what living things you might find in them.

## Microhabitats and Minibeasts

We have been learning about the different habitats where living things make their homes.

Some of these habitats are very big, like a woodland. Some habitats are very small; we call these microhabitats.

A large habitat contains many microhabitats. A microhabitat can be as small as a fallen branch or the space under a stone.

## Microhabitats and Minibeasts

Here are some different microhabitats you might have found in the local environment.



Under stones and rocks.



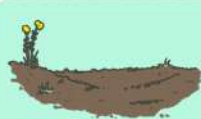
In short grass.



Inside rotting wood.



Under fallen leaves.



In and on the soil.



In tall grass and flowers.

## Microhabitats and Minibeasts

A minibeast is a small creature like an insect, a worm or a spider.

Many different minibeasts live in many different microhabitats.



They are suited to live in that microhabitat as they can find the food, water and shelter they need.



Minibeasts help to keep the microhabitat healthy.



## Worms



Worms like to live anywhere there is soil.

They like to eat dead leaf matter and they need the soil to be moist.

Worms help to keep soil healthy by digging tunnels that let air and water in.

## Spider



Spiders can live in just about any habitat.

When the weather gets colder they have to find shelter.

Their body colours help them to blend in and they build webs to catch insects to eat.

## Caterpillar



Caterpillars like to live on top of and underneath leaves.

This is so they can use their camouflage and blend into the leaf.

This helps to protect them so that they are not easily seen by predators.

## Ants



Ants mostly live underground in big families.

There are lots of insects to eat underground.

Ants don't have ears. Ants hear by feeling vibrations in the ground through their feet.

## Ladybirds



During the summer ladybirds like to live in shrubs, branches and flowers.

When the weather gets cold they hide in tree stumps, under rocks and under leaves.

Ladybirds huddle together to keep warm and hibernate until spring.

What is a microhabitat?

A microhabitat is \_\_\_\_\_

What type of living things use these as their homes?

Why do they live in microhabitats?

They live in microhabitats because \_\_\_\_\_

Can you name the different types of microhabitats?

Micro habitats:

Challenge: Can you find two different microhabitats where you live?

You might look in your garden, along your street, in the park or go for a walk to find them. Once you have found them can you draw a picture of each one and describe them on the microhabitat enquiry sheet.