

# Marvellous Mini-Beasts (Design a new species)

Hello everyone

## What is a Mini-Beast?

Mini-Beasts are called invertebrates, which are animals without a backbone. Invertebrates are the most numerous type of animal in the world, making up 90 percent of all living animal species. In Britain alone there are over 25,000 species of invertebrates known. The most common groups of invertebrates are: arachnids, molluscs, crustaceans, annelids, insects and myriapods. Unlike vertebrates (animals with a backbone like mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles) they do not have a skeleton inside. Can you name the different types of invertebrates below and find out which group they belong to?





**What is a mini-beast?**

Invertebrates have an exoskeleton

How many legs?

0, 6, 8, or lots?

Some have wings, some don't.

Invertebrates have no backbone or internal skeleton

Take on many shapes and forms

What is adaptation?

Adaptation is the way animals and plants become better at living in their habitat.

Adaptations allow animals and plants to live successfully in their habitat. Animals and plants that live in different habitats need different adaptations. Some invertebrates such as the ladybird are good at escaping. Others are effective hunters like the spider. Many move effectively like a dragonfly. Look at the picture below. This invertebrate is camouflaged to protect it from being detected. What is it called and which group of invertebrates does it belong to?



Not all mini-beasts hunt. Can you name some that are herbivores?

Now it is over to you..... Design your own mini-beast!

Things to think about.....

- How does it move?
- How big is it?
- How does it defend itself against predators?
- Is it brightly coloured or camouflaged?

- Nocturnal to avoid day time predation (lobster)
- Feeds on algae found on coral and rocks (parrotfish)
- Feeds in a group to decrease risk of predation (Indo-Pacific sergeant fish)
- Camouflaged when burrowed in the sand (Caribbean electric ray)

