

Reading – Day 1

Marvellous Mini-beasts



Whether they scare you, fascinate you or just give you that creepy shudder down the spine, it can't be denied that mini-beasts are fascinating! Some look small and defenceless, some look dangerous and some even look beautiful, but they all have their own interesting traits and characteristics. Learning more about these wonders of nature can make a woodland walk a lot more interesting.

Amazing arachnids

Despite what many people think, spiders cannot be classified as insects. With eight legs, two body segments and no wings, the spider finds itself in the category of 'arachnids'. If you are amongst the millions of people who have a phobia of spiders, you suffer 'arachnophobia'.

There are over 30,000 species of spiders in the world. Thankfully, they're not all dangerous! Although the most common house spider found in Britain is thought of as totally harmless to humans, its bite is venomous! However, it is thought to be virtually impossible for this species to open its mouth wide enough, or have fangs long enough, to deliver a venomous bite to a human. Spiders tend to save their venom for their prey – insects and other spiders – which they catch using their silky webs.

Beautiful butterflies

Unlike spiders, butterflies are classified as insects. Six legs, a segmented body and four wings make up the anatomy of a butterfly. Their brightly coloured wings are made up of tiny scales, arranged in unique patterns.

Butterflies, as we see them flying around, are just one part of a four-part life cycle (also known as a 'metamorphosis').

1. How many different types of spiders can be found in the world?

_____ 1 mark

2. What word is used to describe being scared of spiders?

_____ 1 mark

3. List **two** different parts of a butterfly's body.

1. _____

2. _____ 2 marks

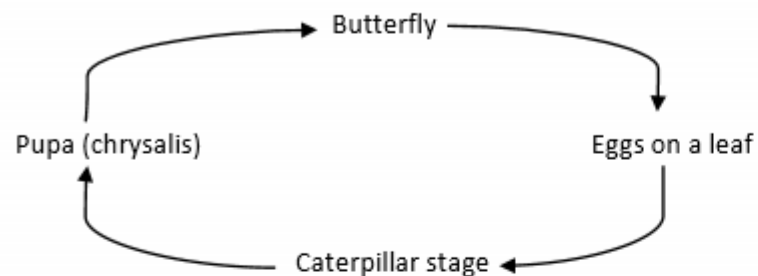
4. **Find and copy** the word that tells the reader that a butterfly's wing pattern could not be the same as that of another butterfly.

_____ 1 mark

5. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is a **fact** or an **opinion**.

	Fact	Opinion
Lots of mini-beasts are beautiful to look at.		
Ants are very strong.		
Butterflies' wings are colourful.		

1 mark



The life cycle of a butterfly



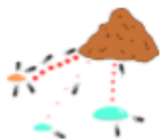
Butterflies can be found all around the world, using their long straw-like tongue to extract nectar and juice from flowers and rotting fruit. When they do this, they help spread the pollen of plants.

Astonishing Ants

Just like butterflies, ants are in the mini-beast category of insects. They have six legs and a body segmented into three parts. In an amazing feat of strength, an ant can lift 20 times its own body weight. That is like a child lifting a car!

Groups of ants, known as 'armies', live in colonies. Within these colonies, there will typically be three kinds of ants: the queen, male worker ants and female worker ants. It is the role of the queen ant to lay eggs, whilst the worker ants build/maintain the colony, find food and act as soldiers.

As they travel around in their mesmerising, large groups and lines, ants can cause quite a fuss for humans. Whether it's interrupting picnics and walking off with snacks, or giving a nasty nip to the skin, ants can make a nuisance of themselves. Luckily for us, nearly all bites from ants are not lethal.



6. Why is the information on the life cycle of a butterfly given as a diagram?

1 mark

7. However, it is thought to be virtually impossible for this species to open its mouth wide enough...

In this sentence, the word *virtually* is closest in meaning to...

Tick one

- probably
- always
- extremely
- almost

1 mark

8. Why do you think the text compares an ant lifting 20 times its body weight to a child lifting a car?

2 marks