Tiny homes: answers and notes

What your child practised: finding minibeasts in microhabitats, like under a log or stone, and explaining why they live in dark, damp places (Year 2 science).

Page 1 · Warm up

woodlouse, **worm**, **snail**, **beetle**. The fox and owl have backbones.

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Most are found **under the stone** and **in the leaf pile** (dark, damp); few on the sunny path.

Page 2 · A. Tiny homes

worm → **deep in the soil** · spider → **on its web in a hedge** · woodlouse → **under a log** · snail → **on a damp leaf**. Snails and worms can live under logs too: accept any home your child can explain.

Page 3 · B. Ring one

under a stone · in a pile of damp leaves · under a plant pot

Page 3 · C. Fill the gaps

1. **microhabitat** · 2. **damp** · 3. **out** · 4. **birds**

Challenge: No. A dry jar on a sunny windowsill is too **light**, **dry** and **warm**, so the woodlouse would dry out. It should go back where Leo found it, somewhere dark and damp.

Watch out for

- **"Minibeasts live there because it's dirty."** They live there because it's dark, damp and cool, with food like rotting leaves and wood.
- **Mixing up habitat and microhabitat.** The woodland is the habitat; the space under a log in it is a microhabitat.
- **Taking minibeasts home.** Look, count and draw, then leave them where they live.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Make a tiny home:** leave a log, a few stones or an upturned plant pot in a shady corner. Check under it in a week.
- **Minibeast walk:** spot tiny homes you pass (a crack in a wall) and guess who lives there.
- **In the game:** Chapter 5, Food chains, shows who eats whom: grass, a rabbit and a fox.