Name _____ Date _____

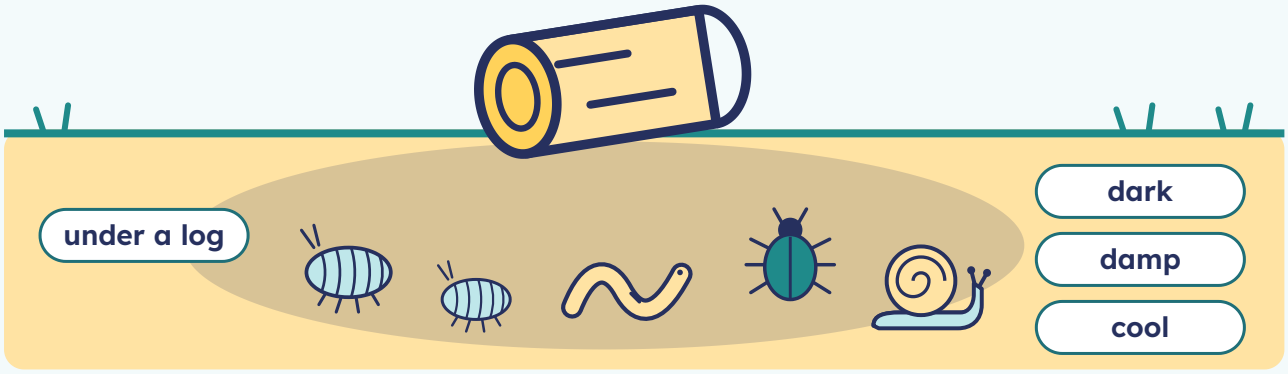
Tiny homes

A **microhabitat** is a very small habitat, like the space under a log.

1 Learn



Lift a log and look! Lots of **minibeasts** live in the dark, damp space underneath. It's a tiny home inside the woodland.



Why does a woodlouse live under a log?



Damp It dries out in the sun, so it needs damp places.

Dark It can hide from birds and other animals that eat it.

Food It eats rotting wood and dead leaves.

Flip's tip: always put the log or stone back gently, just as you found it. It's someone's home!

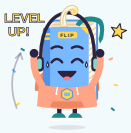
Warm up: ring the **4** minibeasts.



Grown-ups: a **minibeast** is a small animal with no backbone, like a woodlouse, worm or snail. A microhabitat is a tiny habitat inside a bigger one.

Name _____ Date _____

2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes, outside



Tiny home hunt

You need: a garden, yard or park, this sheet, a pencil, and a magnifying glass if you have one.

1. Find 3 places: **under a stone** or plant pot, **in a pile of leaves**, and a **sunny path** or lawn.
2. Look and feel: is it **dark** or **light**? Is it **damp** or **dry**?
3. A grown-up gently lifts the stone. Look closely and count the minibeasts. Don't pick them up.
4. Put everything back gently, just as you found it. Wash your hands after.

Place	Dark or light?	Damp or dry?	Minibeasts we saw
under a stone			
in a leaf pile			
on a sunny path			

Grown-ups: ask "Where did we find the most minibeasts? Why do you think they like it there?" No outdoor space? Look under a doormat or a plant pot by the door.

3 Practise

A. Draw a line from each minibeast to a tiny home where you might find it.

worm	under a log
spider	deep in the soil
woodlouse	on a damp leaf
snail	on its web in a hedge

Name _____ Date _____

B. Where would a woodlouse like to live? Ring one in each pair.

under a stone	on a sunny path
on a dry, sunny wall	in a pile of damp leaves
under a plant pot	on a sunny windowsill

C. Fill the gaps. Use the words in the box.

damp · birds · out · microhabitat

1. The space under a log is a tiny home called a _____.
2. Minibeasts like dark, _____ places.
3. Damp places stop them drying _____.
4. Dark places help them hide from _____ that eat them.

D. Draw a minibeast in its tiny home. Write where it lives.

It lives _____

Challenge

Leo finds a woodlouse. He puts it in a dry jar on a sunny windowsill so he can watch it. Is that a good home? Where should it go?

_____

_____

I can...

Tick when you can.

- ☐ say what a microhabitat is
- ☐ find minibeasts under logs and stones
- ☐ say why minibeasts like dark, damp places