Bugs on plants: answers and notes

What your child practised: naming minibeasts that live on plants and flowers, and naming plants such as daisies, dandelions, nettles, moss and ferns (Year 2 science).

Page 1 · Warm up

The **bee** visits flowers.

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary: tiny spiders, greenfly, beetles, ladybirds, caterpillars.

Page 2 · A. Name each plant

nettle, **moss**, **daisy**, **fern**, **dandelion**

Page 3 · B. Match them

bee → **on a flower**
caterpillar → **munching a nettle leaf**
spider → **in a web**

Page 3 · C. Ring the right name

fern, **daisy**, **moss**, **dandelion**

Page 3 · D. Draw

Any minibeast found on flowers, such as a bee, a butterfly or a ladybird, with its name.

Challenge: No. Moss is low and soft, like a tiny green cushion, and it often grows on logs, walls and stones. A fern is much taller, with big feathery leaves that uncurl from a tight curl.

Watch out for

- **Moss and ferns mixed up.** Both like damp, shady places and neither has flowers. Size and shape tell them apart: a soft cushion (moss) or feathery leaves (fern).
- **Daisy and dandelion mixed up.** A daisy is white with a yellow middle; a dandelion is all yellow.
- **Pond plants in the garden.** If your child names a water lily here, remind them it grows in ponds (Chapter 4).

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Plant spotting:** on a walk, find moss on a wall, daisies and dandelions in the grass, and nettles by a path (look, don't touch).
- **Under or on top?** Turn over a few leaves on a plant together. Who is hiding underneath?
- **In the game:** Chapter 4, Pond habitat, goes pond dipping to name water minibeasts and pond plants.