Mini-beasts KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

ESSENTIAL MINI-BEASTS VOCABULARY

crustacean	An arthropod that is mainly found in water, often with a body covered in a hard shell.
antennae	The 'feelers' that arthropods use for sensing.
arachnid	An arthropod with 8 segmented legs and no wings or antennae.
arthropod	An animal with an exoskeleton, segmented body and jointed legs.
annelid	An animal with a long, segmented body.
colony	A group of birds, insects or animals that live in a group together.
exoskeleton	A hard shell covering the outside of the body.
mollusc	An animal with a soft body, no spine and often covered with a shell.
thorax	The middle part of an arthropods body which the legs and wings are attached to.
larva	The young form of an insect.
abdomen	The bottom part of an arthropod's body.
decomposer	An organism that decomposes organic material.
metamorphosis	The process of transformation from young to an adult form.
hibernate	When some animals have long periods of deep sleep in very cold weather.
insect	A small animal that has 6 legs and generally one or two pairs of wings

Main Types of Mini-beasts

There are four main types of mini-beasts.

- Insects
- Arachnids
- Molluscs
- Crustaceans

Insects

Insects have three segments to their bodies: the head, the thorax and the abdomen. They have 6 legs and usually one or two pair of wings. Examples of insects are ants and flies.

Molluscs

Molluscs are animals that have a soft body, no spine and often covered in a shell. Molluscs often live in water. Examples of molluscs are snails and oysters.

Arachnids

Arachnids are arthropods that have eight segmented wings and no antennae. Their bodies are divided into two parts: the head and thorax in one part and the abdomen in the other. Examples of arachnids are spiders and scorpions.

Arthropods

Arthropods are the largest group of mini-beasts. They all have an exoskeleton (skeleton outside their body), a segmented body and six jointed legs.

Crustaceans

Crustaceans are arthropods that have two pairs of antennae and are covered in a shell. Most crustaceans live in the sea. Examples of crustaceans are crabs and lobsters.

Life Cycle of Insects- Complete Metamorphosis

The female lays eggs on a leaf, which a larva grows inside. The larva then eats a lot in preparation for the chrysalis stage. When it is ready, the insect seals itself in a protective case (a chrysalis). This is called the pupa stage. After a while, it emerges as a fully grown adult, often with wings. Insects that go through complete metamorphosis include ladybirds, butterflies and moths.

MAKING LINKS TO PREVIOUS LEARNING
GOLDEN VOCABULARY

Food chain	**Decomposers** form part of the food chain.
Life Cycles	Insects go through **metamorphosis** as part of their life cycles.
Evolution	Some animals have evolved to **hibernate** to survive harsh winters.
Habitats	**Insects** are found in a variety of habitats.

Life Cycle of Insects- Incomplete Metamorphosis

With some insects, such as dragonflies, there isn't a pupa stage. Instead, the eggs hatch into nymphs (which look like a young version of the adult, but without wings). After that, the nymphs develop wings and become fully formed adults.

Insects that go through incomplete metamorphosis include crickets, grasshoppers and stick insects.

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