

Minibeasts and Life Cycles

Key vocabulary

insect	a small animal that has six legs and generally one or two pairs of wings
minibeast	a small invertebrate (no spine) animal like a spider or insect
thorax	the chest of an insect / minibeast
abdomen	the middle part of an insect / minibeast
exoskeleton	a hard covering on the outside of an insect's body
life cycle	the changes living things go through to become an adult
metamorphosis	the changes in form that some living things go through, e.g. the change from caterpillar to butterfly
larva	an insect after it hatches from an egg and before it changes into its adult form
pupa	an insect in the middle stage of its metamorphosis
chrysalis	the hard outside covering of a moth or butterfly while it is a pupa



A minibeast or insect's home is called a **habitat**.

A **habitat** is where the animal lives... it can be as big as a forest or as small as a single leaf.

