

SCIENCE: for the week that begins on Monday May 11th

Just a couple of days ago, in my garden, I saw a scene rather like this. The bird I saw was a female blackbird and she put a lot more work into catching the worm than this one seems to be doing.



After biting parts of the worm off but clearly not getting what it wanted, the bird eventually won and carried the worm away to a hidden spot under a small bush. I felt a little sorry for the worm and wondered why it had been so near to the surface and in a place where the bird could capture it. I have looked up the answer to this: worms sometimes use the ground surface because they can travel more quickly there. They particularly do this when the soil they live in has become very dry – which my garden certainly has done.

This got me thinking about the way that other tiny creatures live. We often call them minibeasts, though that is not an official classification or group of animals. Minibeasts are invertebrates (with no backbone) and there are a lot more of them in the world than every other creature put together. Just beetles alone make up a quarter of all the creatures on Earth.

1. If your computer at home can read Powerpoint presentations, there is one about minibeast habitats which explains in a friendly way why particular habitats are best suited for different tiny creatures.
2. Whether or not you have read that, the first activity is a very simple matching task: which minibeast lives where? (The sheet is ever so easy – just a few minutes work. And, as a clue, the strange hill-shaped picture is supposed to be an ant hill!)
3. Next, there is a reading comprehension about beetles. Not easy, but quite straightforward.
4. And finally, the Science (and Art?) challenge for the week is to produce either the closest up most detailed photo of a minibeast from your garden or a nearby field or footpath or a very large, detailed drawing of a minibeast – you probably need to catch one to draw this! These images can be emailed to the [teacher@kingslandengland.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:teacher@kingslandengland.hereford.sch.uk) address if you have a good one to share. [Remember that if you are drawing or painting a very tiny object it really helps if you can make your picture use the full length of your sheet of paper].