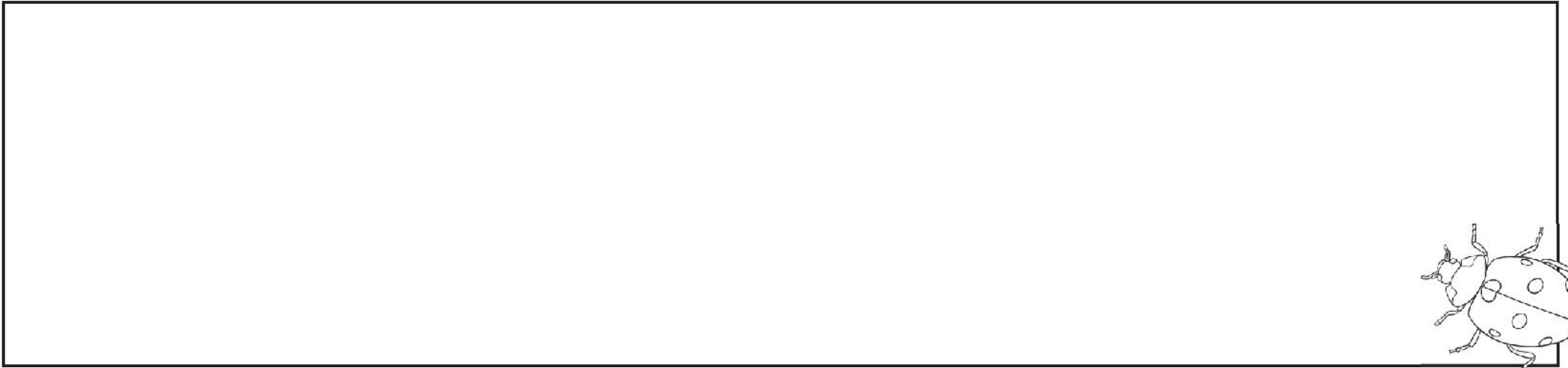


# Microhabitats

Draw and label the animals you found in the microhabitat you looked at.



Why do these animals like to live here? \_\_\_\_\_

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What other animals might live there? \_\_\_\_\_

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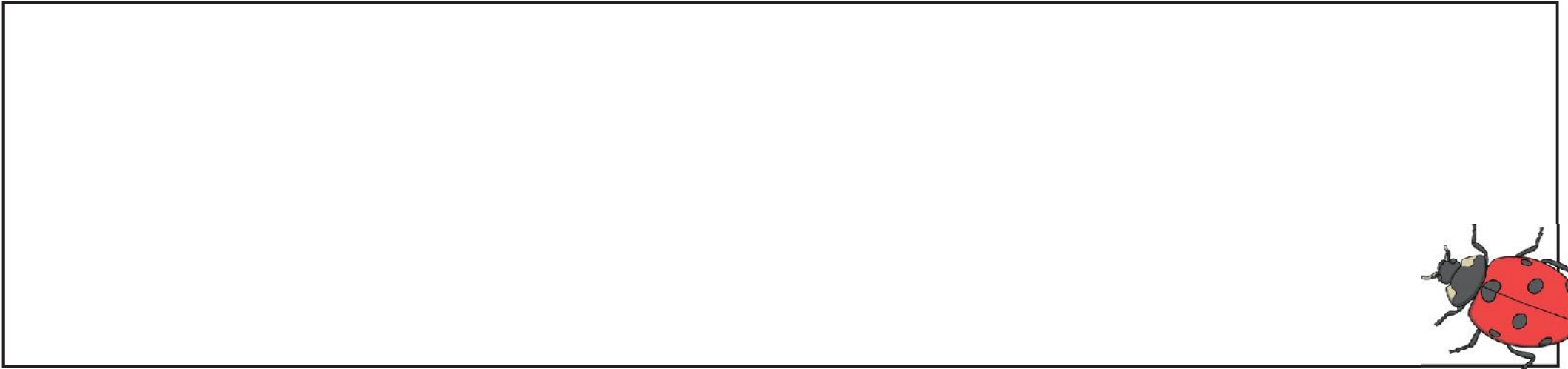
What could make this microhabitat change? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Microhabitats

Draw and label the animals you found in the microhabitat you looked at.



Why do these animals like to live here? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What other animals might live there? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What could make this microhabitat change? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

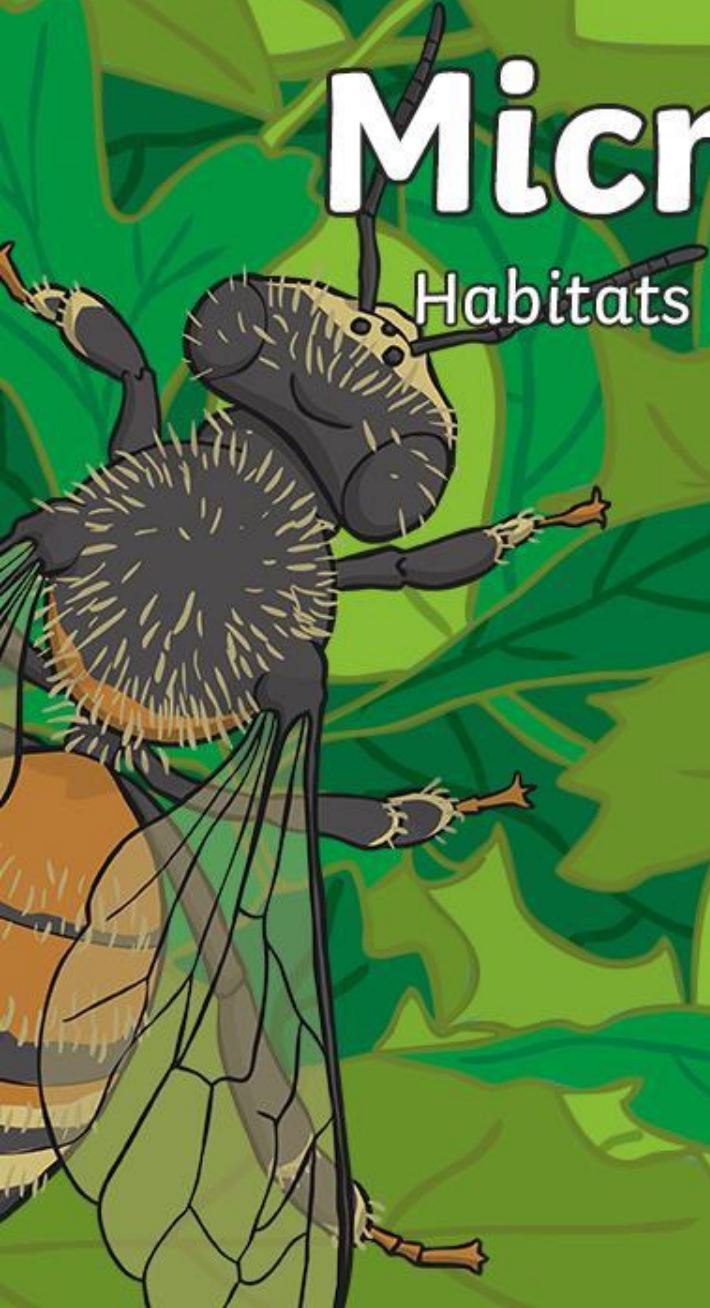
# Microhabitats in My School

Which microhabitats are there in the school grounds?

Draw and label each microhabitat and the creatures that live there.


# Microhabitats

Habitats in the Local Environment



# Aim

- To know that animals are suited to the habitat they live in.
- To know that habitats provide for the animals and plants that live there.

# Success Criteria

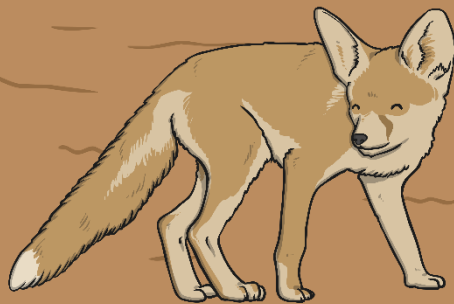
- I can describe the features of a habitat or local habitat.
- I know what is essential for keeping them healthy and alive.
- I can ask and answer questions about the local environment.



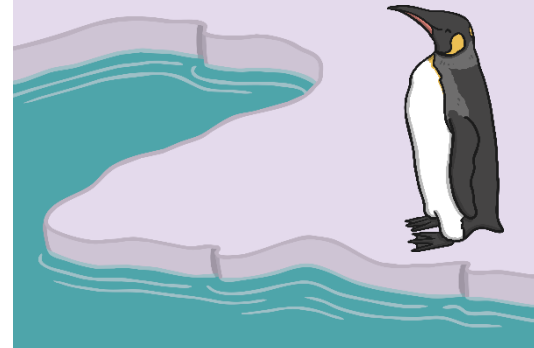
# Habitats

A habitat is a place that an animal lives in. It provides the animal with food, water and shelter.

There are many different sorts of habitats around the world from forests to grasslands and from mountain slopes to deserts.



Different habitats are home to different animals. They live well together because they all do things to help keep the whole habitat healthy.



# Microhabitats

A microhabitat is a very small, specialized habitat, such as a clump of grass or a space between rocks.



It is a habitat for extremely small creatures such as woodlice.

A small part of a habitat is a microhabitat. A microhabitat has its own conditions of temperature and light, and its own characteristic species. Microhabitats include the shady area under a tree and the underside of a rock in a stream.





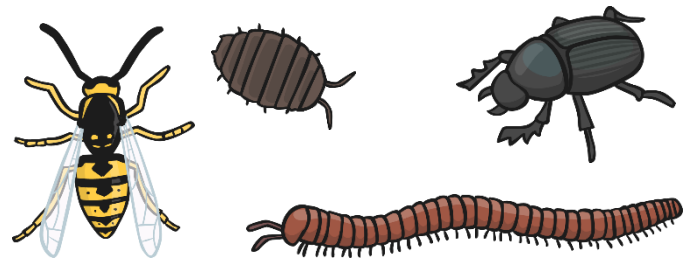
# Microhabitats

## A Fallen Log



- This is a microhabitat.
- It is dark and warm inside.
- Minibeasts live here because they can eat the rotting wood, keep moist in the dark inside and burrow out of the sun.
- They are safe from birds that want to eat them.

### Creatures found here:





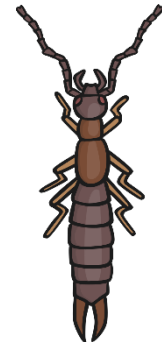
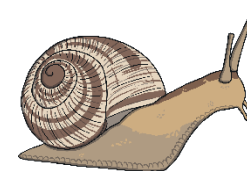
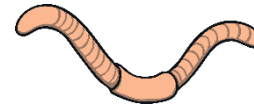
# Microhabitats

## Leaf Litter



This microhabitat is home to animals that like to be warm, damp and dark. The animals can nest or hide to protect themselves.

### Creatures found here:



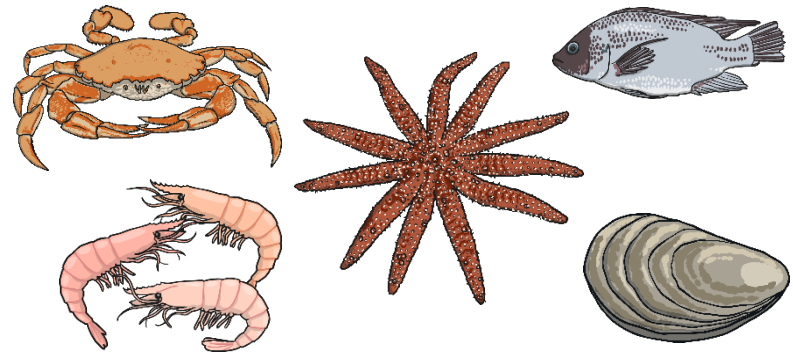
# Microhabitats

## A Rock Pool



The microhabitat of a rock pool can change as the tide comes in and out and washes water and life in and out of the pools. Some rock pools are full of life whilst others, at the back of the beach, that do not get refreshed by the tide, have less life.

### Creatures found here:





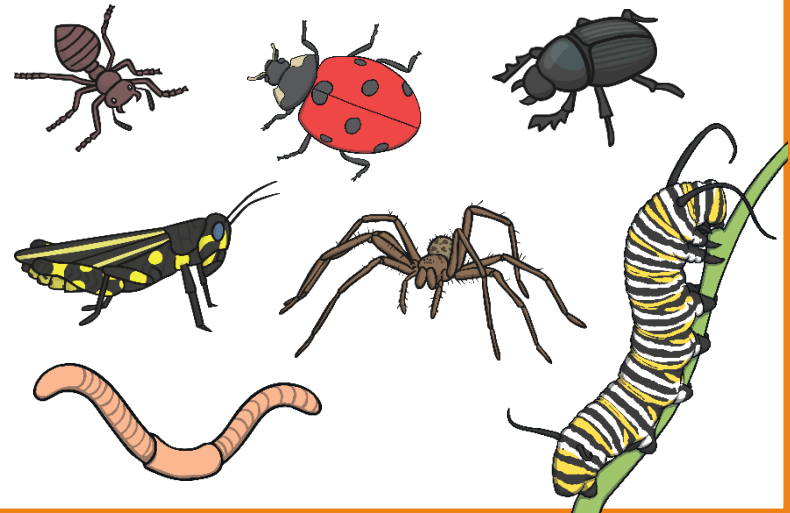
# Microhabitats

## A Clump of Grass



A clump of grass is a microhabitat. It is home to many minibeasts who eat the grass, shelter in the clump and can be camouflaged in the leaves.

### Creatures found here:





# Minibeasts

Many different minibeasts live in many different microhabitats. They are suited to live in that microhabitat because they can find food, water and shelter they need. Minibeasts help to keep the microhabitat healthy.



# Minibeasts

## Caterpillar



- Caterpillars like to live on top and underneath leaves.
- This is so they can use their camouflage and blend into the leaf.
- This helps protect them so they cannot be seen by predators.
- The caterpillars can then also catch what they want to eat.

# Minibeasts

## Ant



- Ants mostly live underground.
- They live in big families.
- There are lots of insects to eat underground.
- Ants don't have ears. Ants "hear" by feeling vibrations in the ground through their feet.



# Minibeasts

## Worm



- Worms like to live anywhere there is soil.
- They like to eat dead leaf matter and need the soil to be moist.
- Worms help keep soil healthy as they dig tunnels that let air and water into soil and to the roots of plants.

# Minibeasts

## Spider



- Spiders are able to live just about anywhere.
- They do well in all types of habitats but they do have to find shelter when the weather gets colder.
- Their body colours help them blend in well to their surroundings.
- Spiders build webs to catch small insects to eat.

# Minibeasts

## Ladybird



- During the summer, ladybirds live in shrubs, branches, and flowers.
- When the weather gets colder they find protective hiding places, such as tree stumps or cracks in wood. This then becomes a place to hibernate - at the base of a tree, or even under a rock. They crawl under leaves to protect themselves from the winter cold.
- When hibernating, ladybirds huddle together in order to keep warm.



# Task

We are going into the school grounds to find and examine a microhabitat.

## You will need:

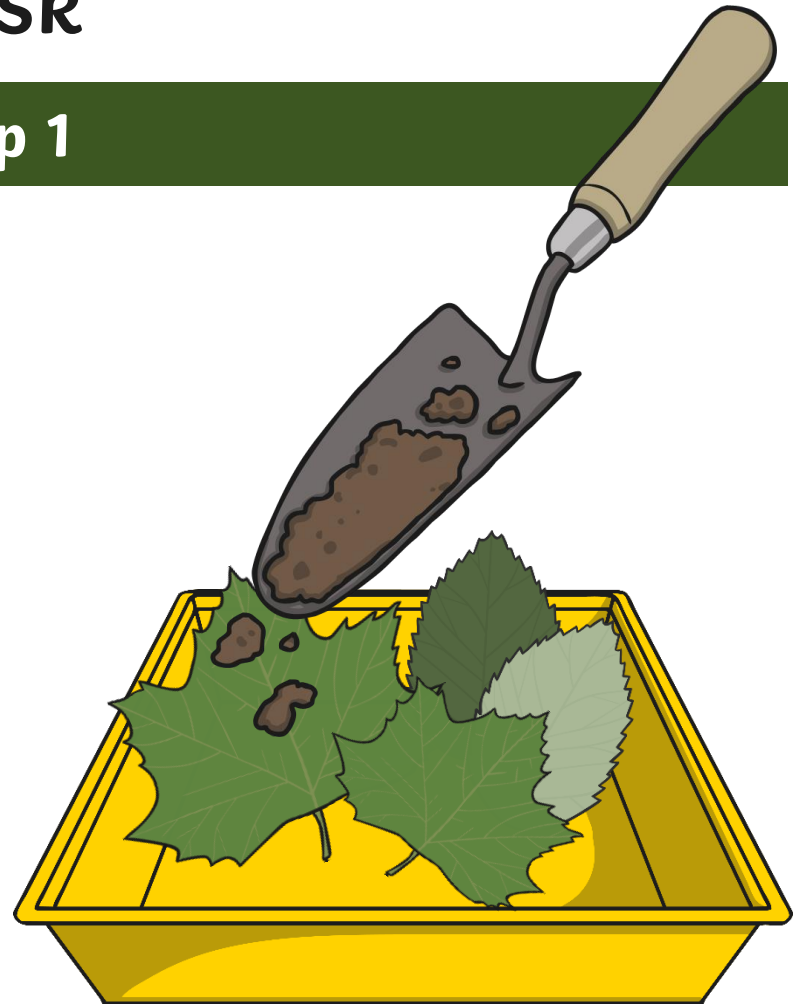
- A partner
- A trowel or short shovel
- Gloves (gardening gloves or winter gloves will do)
- One large tray
- One small tray
- Two magnifying glasses
- Tweezers
- Pencil and paper
- Identification key



# Task

## Step 1

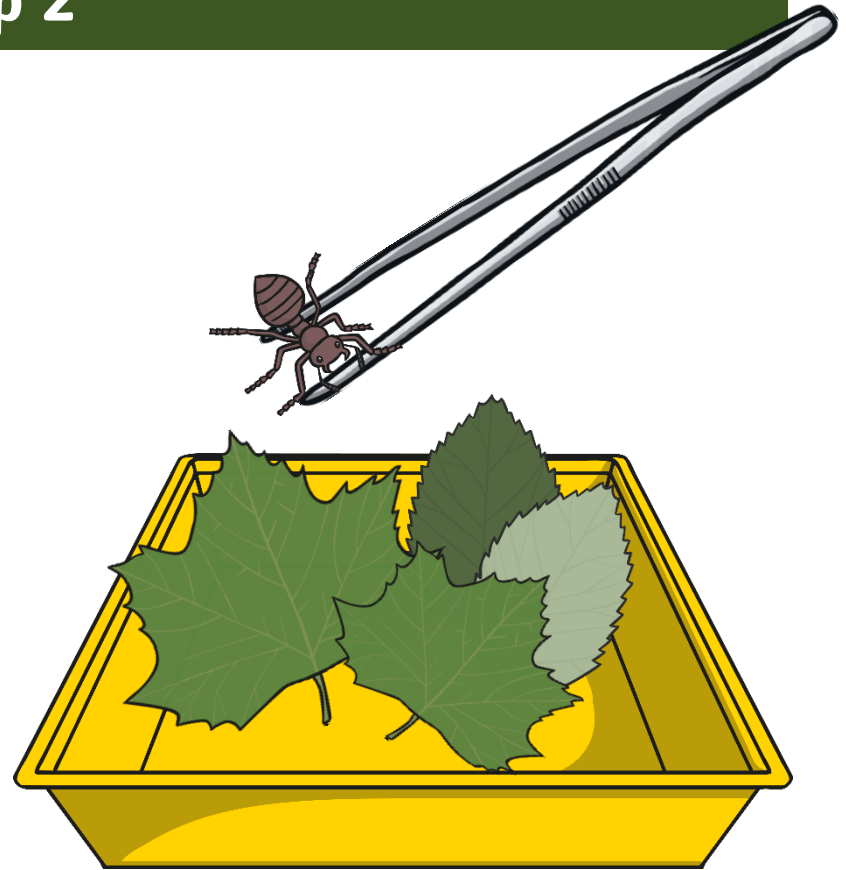
1. Find a microhabitat. There should be many fallen leaves, twigs and pieces of bark.
2. Put on your gloves and use the trowel to collect all the leaf layer and soil. Place all the leaf litter in the large tray.
3. Using your fingers but keeping your gloves on, spread out the leaf litter so an even layer is created. Keep your eye out for minibeasts!



# Task

## Step 2

1. With your magnifying glasses examine the leaf litter for any worms, snails, spiders or other insects. Use your gloved fingers to gently sift through the litter.
2. Using tweezers, gently place any animals found in the litter into the smaller tray. You should find specimens like snails, worms and spiders. Don't worry if you can't get all the insects.





# Task

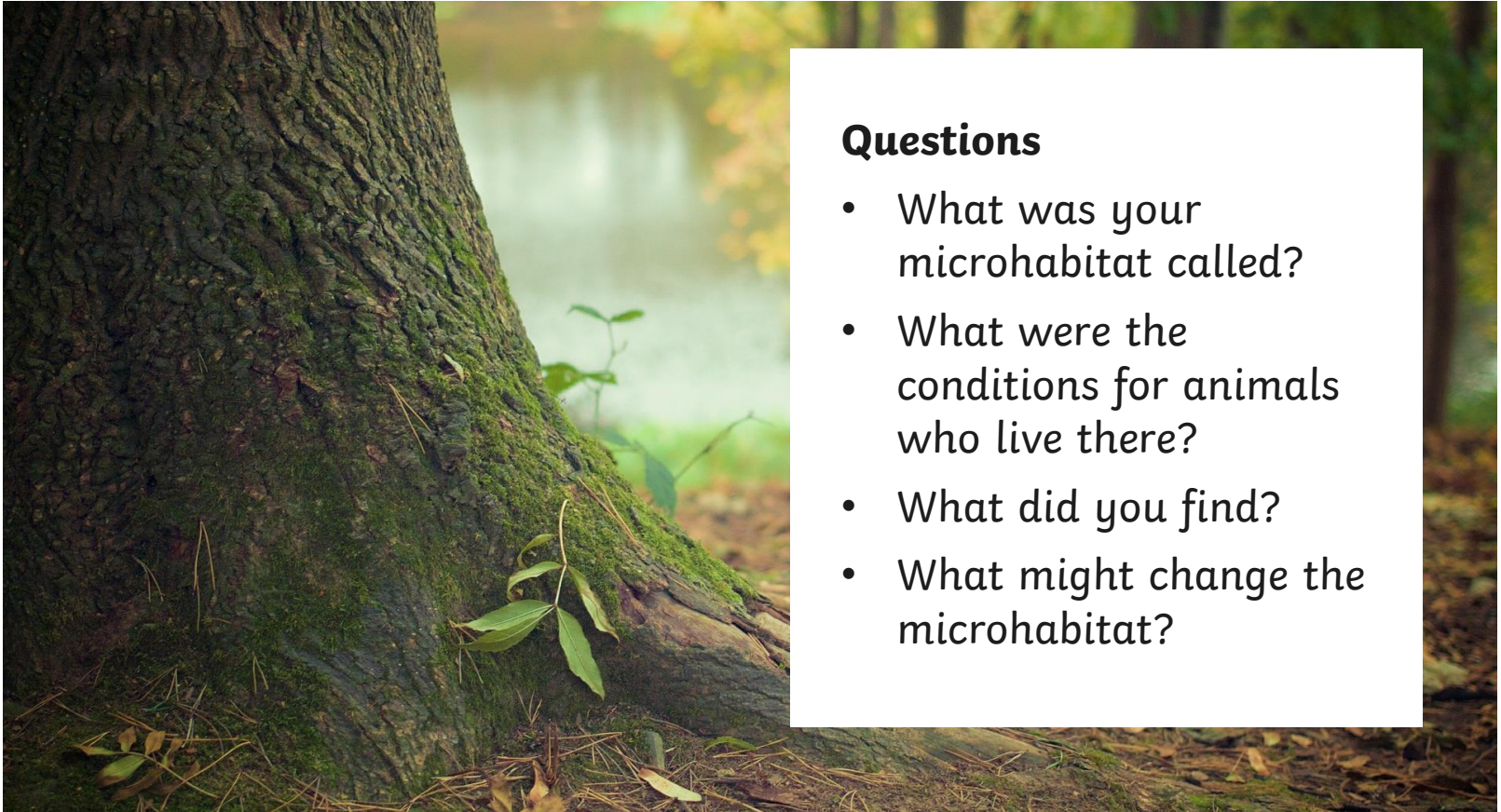
## Step 3

1. Using the magnifying glasses, examine the small animals.
2. Scientists use questions like these to categorize animals into different groups.
  - ? How many legs are there, if any?
  - ? Do they have an external skeleton or a hard shell?
  - ? Do their legs appear to be jointed?
3. Look out for obvious differences like **colour**, **size**, and **shape** to sort out the different species. Record the number of different species you can see.
4. Return all minibeasts and leaf litter to where you originally found them. Make sure you do not leave anything that you brought behind!



# Plenary

Share your findings with everyone in the class.



## Questions

- What was your microhabitat called?
- What were the conditions for animals who live there?
- What did you find?
- What might change the microhabitat?

# Aim

- To know that animals are suited to the habitat they live in.
- To know that habitats provide for the animals and plants that live there.

# Success Criteria

- I can describe the features of a habitat or local habitat.
- I know what is essential for keeping them healthy and alive.
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