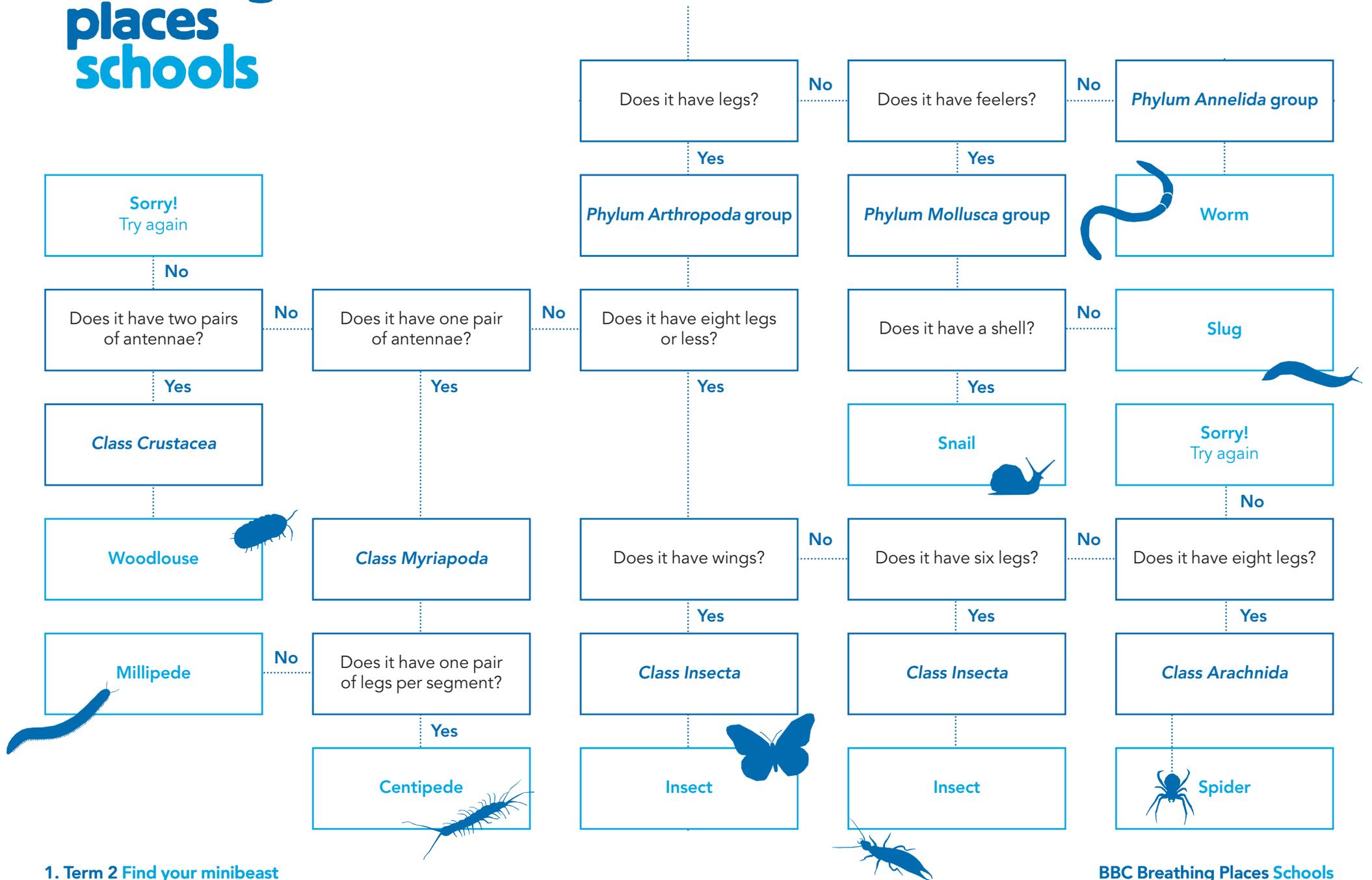
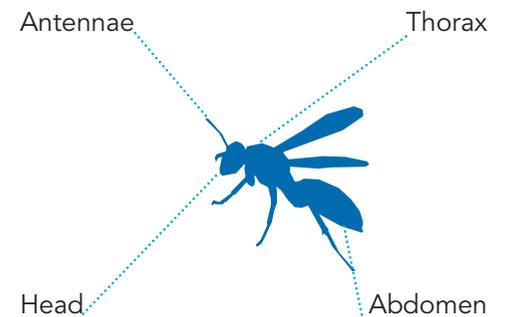
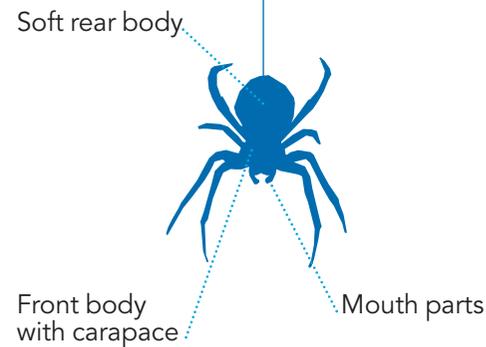
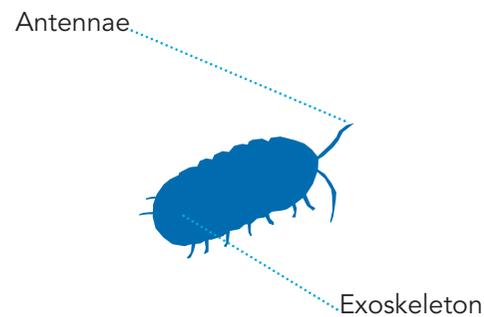
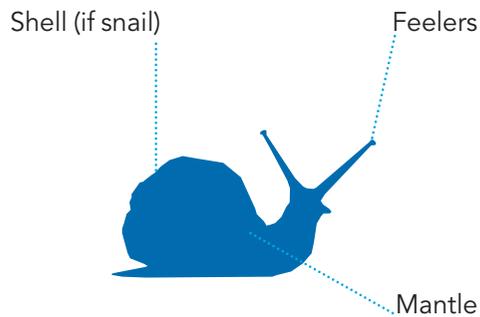


# Find your minibeast





## Molluscs

Molluscs are members of the *Phylum Mollusca* group. Molluscs are soft-bodied invertebrates mostly protected by a hard shell. The body of all molluscs share a common structure, the mantle, a thick cloak of skin covering, at least, part of the body. Typical molluscs that will be found in your minibeast corner are snails and slugs. In the former case the snail has a shell mounted on the mantle into which the snail can retreat for safety. The slug retains the mantle but through evolution has lost its shell.

These molluscs have a powerful single foot used to propel them along and they typically have two pairs of tentacles on their heads.

## Crustaceans

Crustaceans are members of the *Phylum Arthropoda* group. Most crustaceans live in water with the exception, in the UK, of woodlice.

Crustaceans have an exoskeleton, that is they have an external, hard structure which supports the body. All crustaceans have two pairs of antennae attached to their heads.

## Spiders

Spiders are members of the *Phylum Arthropoda* group. The group that contains spiders also includes scorpions, mites and ticks.

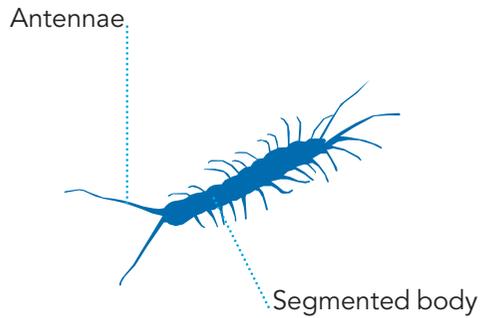
Spiders have two distinct body sections, the front being covered with a tough shield or carapace. The hind section is usually soft and bulbous. There are four pairs of legs attached to the front section.

## Insects

Insects are members of the *Phylum Arthropoda* group. All adult insects have bodies comprising three segments, head, thorax and abdomen and have a pair of antennae on their heads.

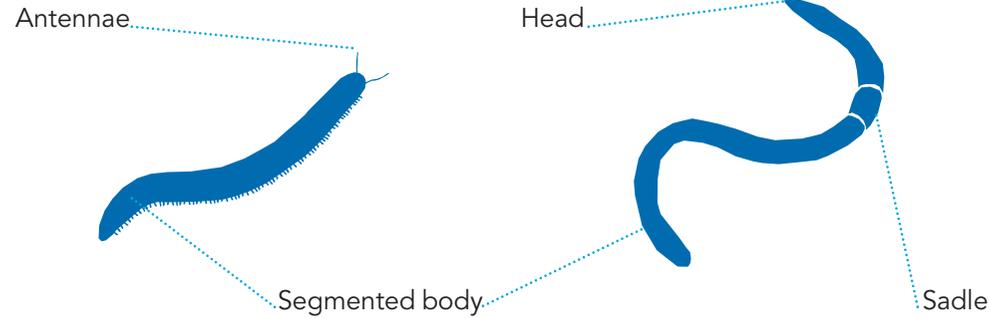
Many adult insects have two pairs of wings attached to their thorax although some have one pair and some no wings at all.

Insects are the most numerous in terms of species of all arthropods and therefore come in many shapes and sizes. It is most likely that your minibeasts are insects. Typical creatures in this family are flies, butterflies, dragonflies, craneflies, ladybirds, beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, earwigs, bees, wasps and ants.



### Centipedes

Centipedes are members of the *Phylum Arthropoda* group and have segmented bodies with one pair of legs per segment. They have a pair of antennae at their head end. They do not have wings.



### Millipedes

Millipedes are members of the *Phylum Arthropoda* group and have segmented bodies with two pairs of legs per segment. They have a pair of antennae at their head end. They do not have wings.

### Worms

The common earthworm, which is likely to be found in minibeast corner, is a member of the *Phylum Annelida* group which includes segmented worms. These creatures have no legs or wings and have a single, long body made up of 110 to 160 segments. On each segment are four pairs of bristles, or setae, with which the worm anchors itself to the walls of the burrow. The body has a pointed front end and a blunt end at the rear.