

# Protection and camouflage

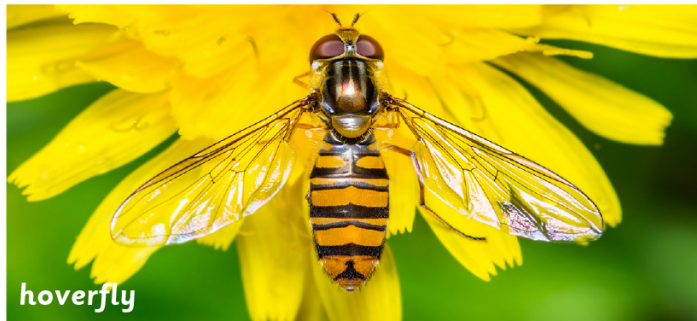
# Camouflage

Minibeasts come in many shapes, sizes and colours. Some minibeasts are the same colour or shape as their surroundings. This makes it difficult for predators to see them and is known as camouflage.





peacock butterfly



hoverfly



elephant hawk moth caterpillar

## Mimicry

Some minibeasts can pretend to be another animal to scare predators away. This is called mimicry. Peacock butterflies have eyespots on their wings to make them look like bigger animals. Hoverflies have yellow and black warning stripes to look like wasps or bees, even though they don't sting. Elephant hawk moth caterpillars look like snakes.

## Warning colours

Some minibeasts protect themselves using warning colours. The stripes on wasps and bumblebees warn predators that they will sting. Ladybirds are bright red as a warning that they taste nasty.



ladybird



wasp



bumblebee



## Playing dead

Another way that minibeasts can avoid being eaten is to play dead. Some minibeasts curl up into a ball, let go of the plant they are on or lay still, looking dead. The minibeast will stay that way until the threat has passed.