



## Made by Mortals – Armchair Adventures

A COMPOST ADVENTURE – TARGET AGE GROUP: UPPER KS1

A teaching resource to accompany ‘A Compost Adventure’ from the Armchair Adventure podcast series for children.

This pack contains 2 activities for KS1 aged children. Each activity uses different creative approaches to promote engagement and extend childrens’ learning after listening to ‘A Compost Adventure’ from the Armchair Adventures podcast series. The activities take a closer look at some of the characters and themes explored in the podcast, for example mini beasts, recycling and composting.

### Summary of the podcast:

Connie and the gang shrink to the size of a minibeast and explore a wonderful, colourful garden. After a chase from a fox, they find themselves scrambling through a compost bin. Despite the smell and the slime, Connie learns that there’s more to composting and recycling and that many little hands working together can achieve big things.

### Activity 1

**Aim:** Pupils will use their imaginations to create a piece of descriptive writing about a new species of minibeast.

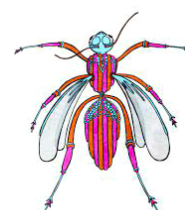
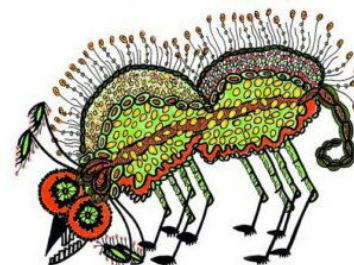
Subject links: English, Art

#### Resources needed:

- Interactive white board
- Images of different types of minibeasts
- Pencils
- White boards/ pens for hunt
- Image of new minibeast labelled to use for model of writing

#### Learning Objectives – Literacy Focus:

- To be able to write using descriptive language
- To be able to use adjectives to add detail
- To use sentences appropriately with correct punctuation
- To re-read writing to check it makes sense
- To form letters correctly and present work neatly



#### Introduction:

During the episode Connie and adventurers end up in a compost bin where they meet lots of different types of minibeasts living there.

#### Teaching Sequence:

- Explain to the children that today, like Connie, they are going on an adventure and are going to be minibeast investigators. Ask the children to tell their talking partners about the minibeasts which Connie met on her adventure. Talk about the worm Connie met in the story.

- Explain that today they are going to go on a hunt to see what creatures they can find. Say a little rhyme:

### **“Feelers out, let’s get about, we’re off on a minibeast adventure”**

- Take the children on a minibeast hunt around school or forest area and encourage children to describe what they find to each other. You may want to let the children take out a white board to draw what they find too. What does their minibeast look like? How many legs does it have? What does it feel like? Where does it live? What does it eat?
- Choose a child to describe a minibeast they found giving only clues to the class, not naming it. Can the class guess what it is?
- Return to the classroom and in your best David Attenborough voice explain to children that there has been some exciting news and that a new minibeast species has been discovered.
- Tell the class that they need to use their imaginations now to help you to write a description about this imaginary minibeast creature.
- Model their ideas and talk about using senses when describing it: what can you see on it? What does it feel like? What does it eat? Where does it live? What is it called? How does it move?
- Ask the children to write an adjective (a describing word such as furry, pretty, spiky etc.) on a post-it note and place on a learning board to create a word bank for pupils to refer to later on.
- Share the activity aim with children and say today they are going to create their own minibeast and write a description about it.

#### **Writing Opportunity:**

- Following the same structure as above, encourage the children to draw ideas to describe their minibeast.
- Refer back to the post-it notes to help with descriptive language.
- Depending on age and needs in class you can have pupils writing individually, in pairs or as a group. If working as a group, give them a large piece of paper to draw their minibeast on and then get children to label and annotate their ideas around it.
- Allow time during this part of the lesson for children to share their ideas with the class.
- Discuss how we could improve or develop their ideas further to make it even better. Ask children to check each other’s work for punctuation- are there capital letters, full stops, commas? Can you find adjectives in your friends writing?
- Finish the session with children sharing their work with partners or to the class.
- Show examples with good use of adjectives and ask children to identify which words they have used. Are there any examples of expanded noun phrases? (using a noun with one or more adjective such as ‘the black, sparkly creature’).
- Ask the children why is it important to use adjectives in a descriptive piece of work?
- This work could also be linked to other creative arts subjects for example:
  - o Art - Pupils could paint, use clay, junk model their new minibeast.
  - o Dance - Pupils could create their own minibeast dance.
  - o Music – compose a piece of music to depict their mini beast creature.

#### **Resources & Links:**

*Book – ‘Superworm’ by Julia Donaldson.*

*Song - ‘There’s A Worm At The Bottom Of The Garden’ - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqchPrhezxQ>*

## Activity 2

**Aim: Pupils will learn about the importance of compost and create a 'RotPot.'**

Subject links: Science, English, Maths and PSHE.

**Resources needed:**

- Two Litre Plastic Bottles
- Scissors
- Watering Can
- Saucer
- Wooden stir stick
- Muslin
- Rubber Band
- Labels
- Pens
- Straw, twigs, leaves and grass.
- Vegetable Scraps
- Water
- Seeds
- Soil



**Learning Objectives – Literacy Focus:**

- To be able to talk about the importance of compost and how it can help the environment.
- To know what type of materials can be used in compost.

**Introduction:**

During the podcast episode, Connie and her adventurers have shrunk to the size of a minibeast and take a walk into a compost bin. Recap what happens in the story. Get children to describe what the compost bin was like and what kind of things were in it.

**Teaching Sequence:**

- Discuss with the children, do you ever wonder what happens to all of the rubbish people create? What do we do with all of the rubbish in our classroom, homes, the world?
- Talk about the importance of compost and how it helps to reduce the organic waste sent to landfill sites. How it helps wildlife and provides homes for garden wildlife like worms, beetles and toads.
- Explain that in this activity, you will learn how to use composting to help the environment.
- Talk to children about how much waste our class produces each day/ week.
- Explain that for one week, ask the pupils to divide the rubbish they throw away between two bins or bin liners. Put compostable items in bin one and non-compostable items in bin two.
- At the end of the week, add up the total of weight of rubbish that a class produces in a week. Also add up the weight of compostable rubbish.
- Explain to the children that they are going to make a 'Compost RotPot' using the compostable rubbish.

### Making The RotPot:

- Ask an adult to cut the 2 litre bottle around 4-5 inches from the bottom. This will be the pot. You may also like to decorate the pot.
- Prepare the ingredients by tearing or cutting the organic materials (straw, twigs, leaves, grass, soil, vegetable, and fruit scraps) into small pieces.
- Add the materials to the RotPot and mix together with the wooden stick.
- Add three to six tablespoons of water. The mixture should be moist like a wrung-out sponge.
- Cover the RotPot with mesh or a muslin and secure with an elastic band.
- Place the RotPot on a sunny windowsill and water it if it starts to dry out.
- The compost RotPot is ready when the ingredients look like dark, rich soil. This will take four to six weeks.
- When the compost RotPot is ready ask an adult to poke a few holes in the bottom of the RotPot and place it on a saucer.
- Plant seeds in the compost and place the RotPot in a sunny place and water it regularly.
- Get each child to label their RotPot, water it each day and observe how it changes.
- Take photos and film pupils making their RotPots and display on learning wall.
- Watch your plants grow! And ask pupils at the end of each week for a month to draw their plant.
- As an extension, you could ask your children to write a set of instructions on how to make a Rot Pot, or create a poster about the importance of Compost.



### Resources & Links:

Website and free PDF – ‘Making Compost in Schools’ from Garden Organic, the national charity for organic growing: <https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/sites/www.gardenorganic.org.uk/files/resources/fflp/composting.pdf>

Website - Eco Schools- [www.eco-schools.org.uk](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk)

Teaching resources from Twinkl: <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/search?q=compost&c=244&ca=22&ct=ks1&r=teacher&fa=2.3>

Youtube - Peppa Pig – ‘Composting For Kids’:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PEIbErayZg>

Youtube – SciShow Kids – ‘Make The Most Of Compost’:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5s4n9r-JGU>

