

Educator Notes: Episode 19. Mini Beasts

In this episode

Amazing mini beasts from the garden have inspired the Art Crew's project. They use clay and natural materials collected from the bush floor to sculpt fascinatingly detailed insects.

Matt shows us some useful clay moulding techniques such as rolling and coiling to create a beehive!

Material Suggestions

- Natural clay
- Sticks
- Leaves
- Gumnuts
- Bark
- Clay modelling tools or old forks, teaspoons and butter knives.



Let's extend

- Create a habitat for clay mini-beasts:
 Research where each insect may be found use additional resources such as string, paper, rocks, dirt and cartons to create insect homes. Try sticking to natural tones as much a possible.
- Use garden wire or pipe cleaners as another interesting way to create mini-beast sculptures. Thread beads, dried pasta or leaves for extra detail.
- Investigate further by researching insect facts and scientific drawings together.
 Revisit insect sculpture making after your research focus. See what other amazing details will appear in children's art.

"Clay is a wonderful malleable material (...) a language for exploring and communicating ideas."

- Ursula Kolbe

Music

Title: Heel and Toe Polka (aka Little Brown Jug Polka)

Composer: Traditional (music)
Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

