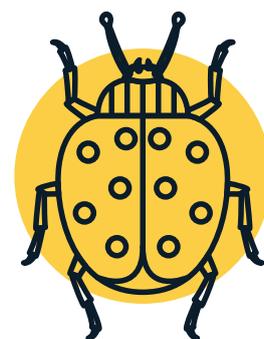


# MINI BEASTS



## Bug Hotel

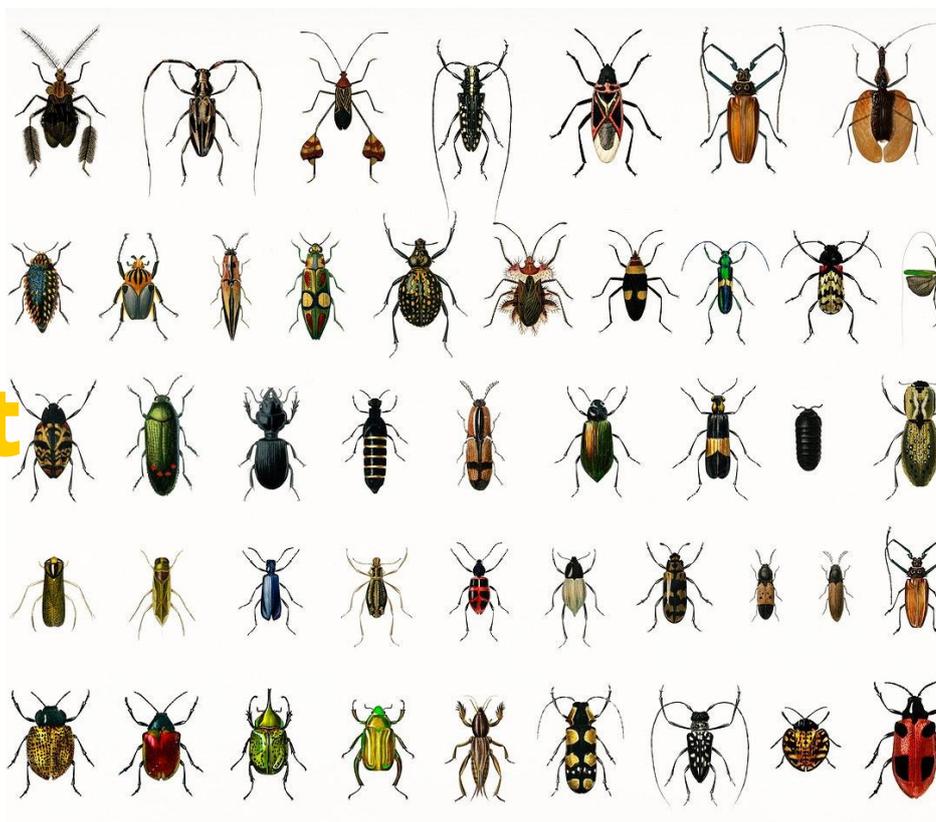
What you'll need:

- An empty tin can, cleaned, dried and label removed
- Cardboard
- Newspaper or recycled paper
- Small twigs and sticks
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Length of string

## How to build a bug hotel:

1. First we need to divide up the space inside the can into little 'hotel rooms'. Cut your piece of cardboard so that it is just a little shorter than your can. It should be about the length of an A4 sheet of paper. Fold the rectangle into an accordion fold. Insert into the can and adjust to make little triangular spaces.
2. Fill up the rooms with furniture! Using your paper, cut long strips that are also just a little shorter than your can (this is to make sure everything inside the can stays nice and dry when it rains!) Roll the long strips of paper around a pencil to make tiny round spaces at the centre- just right for bees and bugs to nest in.
3. Place the rolls of paper into the cardboard 'rooms' and use your twigs and sticks to pack them in tightly so that they don't unroll and can't fall out.
4. Keep on adding rolled paper, twigs and sticks until the whole can is full. You should manage to fit in around 8 rolls of paper.
5. Tie your length of string around the can, with one loop at the front, another at the back and then connect them in the centre. Use this loop to hang your bug hotel in a tree, in a nice stable position so it doesn't get blown about by the wind.
6. Watch for guests at the hotel! It might take a little while for bugs to move in, so be patient!

# Citizen Scientist Count



Throughout Ireland, environmental scientists are working hard to survey the health and population of all kinds of living creatures, from birds to mammals to bugs. Watching for changes in population is a good way of knowing whether living things are thriving, or under threat from habitat loss, pollution and climate change. When living things are under threat, their numbers decline which means we need to take action to make sure they survive. But scientists can't keep track of all living things on their own- they need your help- by asking you to be a Citizen Scientist!

You can play an important role in monitoring the population of creatures such as bees and butterflies, right in your own backyard. To become a citizen scientist, all you need to do is watch, count and record. To get you started, we've created this printable of common creatures found in gardens and green spaces across Ireland. You can use it to start your own observation record. Then ask a grown-up to help you share the information you collect.

& "bee" sure to check out these amazing biodiversity posters that you can print and hang on the wall!



# Butterfly

## Art



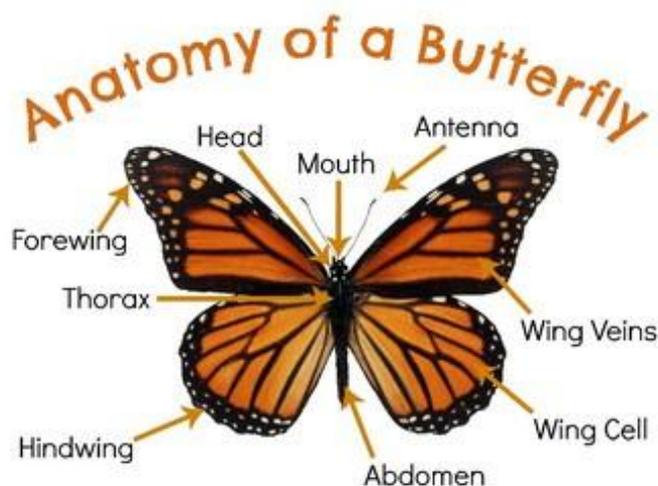
What you'll need - large piece of paper / scissors (optional) / paint in several colours

### How to make a mirrored butterfly:

1. One of the most extraordinary things about butterflies are the symmetry of their wing patterns- they are exactly the same. You can make a perfectly symmetrical butterfly painting with this fun technique.
2. Fold your piece of paper in half.
3. Using your paint, squirt dabs of colour all over one side of the paper. Add as many colour as you have to make your butterfly really colourful.
4. Using a dark colour, squirt some right inside the fold line to make the butterfly's body. A few dots stretching up from the top will work really well for antennae.
5. Fold your paper in half again, right over the dabs of paint. Using flat hands, rub the paper all over to spread the paint from one side to the other. Not to worry if some leaks out the sides, just wipe it away.
6. Unfold your paper and Ta-Da! Two identical, beautiful, colourful butterfly wings.
7. You can leave the paper whole, or use scissors to cut out the butterfly.

*Note* - once you start with this technique it's hard to stop so have a few pieces of paper handy to make several butterflies!!

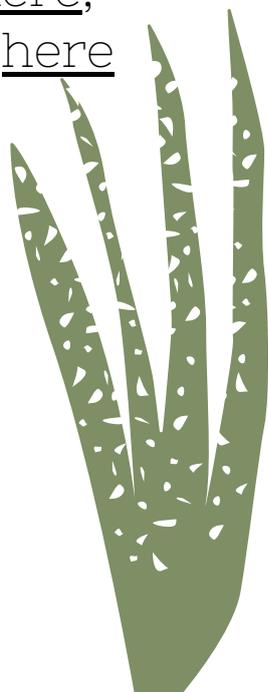
# Make a Butterfly Museum



## What you'll need:

- A shoe box, or similar
- Paint
- Paper
- Scissors
- Pencil

Amazing weblinks for more nature & wildlife projects ideas [here](#), [here](#) & [here](#)



## Instructions:

There are many different species of butterflies, all with different wing pattern and colours. You can make a beautiful display of butterflies, just like the type you'd see in the National History Museum, by using your art skills Here's what to do.

1. Start by making the display box. Using the lid of a shoe box, or the lid of a large egg box, make a beautiful background the display by painting the back or cutting out and gluing a coloured piece of paper.
2. Make your butterflies. On an A4 sheet of paper, draw several butterfly shapes. Not all butterfly wings are the same, you can use [this poster](#) as inspiration
3. Make sure that the size of the butterfly shapes your are drawing are a good fit for your display box, you'll want to fit several inside, so keep them small!!
4. Once you've drawn the shape, fill in the amazing colour with markers, twinstables or watercolour paints.
5. Carefully cut out your butterflies and glue them into the display box. You might want to make a label for each butterfly species name on a small slip of paper and glue that underneath.