17. Investigate your patch

Requirements: https://what3words.com link for teacher use; minibeast record sheet and pen/pencil; magnifying glass (optional); individual school risk assessment for activity required
7 – 11 years: as a class to discuss how to observe, then in pairs or small groups. Record sheets to be collated as a class.
12 – 14 years: as a class to discuss how to observe, then in pairs or small groups. Record sheets collated as a class.
Curriculum: Science (animals and their habitats, classification, working scientifically)
Time: 20 minutes

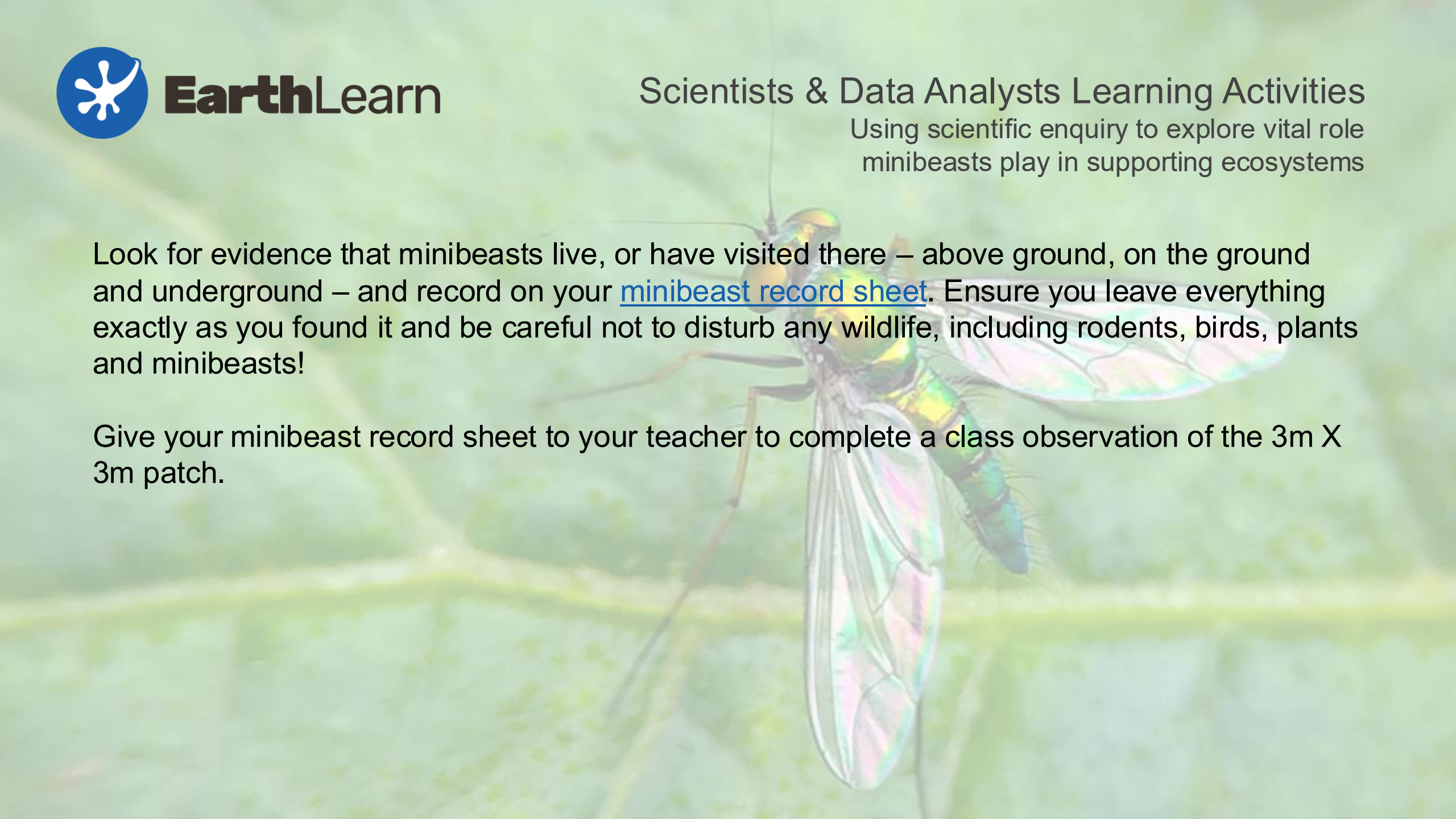
Using What3words, your teacher has identified a 3m X 3m patch for your class to observe. This might be in your school grounds or somewhere locally, like a park or woodland. Your teacher will allocate (roughly) a 1m X 1m patch for you and a partner or group to work on.

1. What colour is your patch – brown, yellow, green or white? Think about any recent heavy rain, hot dry spells, or frost, which might have affected the colour of the soil.
2. Are there any flowers, weeds or shrubs on your patch? Are there tree branches hanging over your patch?
2. Check the soil. Does it look dry, damp or stony? Dig down a little to check if the soil is dry, damp, wet and/or whether it is hard (difficult to dig) or loose.
4. Check for signs of fungus. Are there any toadstools, mushrooms or mould?

EarthLearn

Scientists & Data Analysts Learning Activities

Using scientific enquiry to explore vital role minibeasts play in supporting ecosystems



Look for evidence that minibeasts live, or have visited there – above ground, on the ground and underground – and record on your minibeast record sheet. Ensure you leave everything exactly as you found it and be careful not to disturb any wildlife, including rodents, birds, plants and minibeasts!

Give your minibeast record sheet to your teacher to complete a class observation of the 3m X 3m patch.