



9. Minibeasts and people (post-1800) – drawing case study

Requirements: online internet access; drawing materials and graph paper

7-11 years: teacher-led class review of Cornelia Hesse Honnegger webpage, or individual/ pair review; individual drawing activity

12-14 years: self-led individual/ pair review; individual drawing activity. Plenary discussion as a class

Curriculum: Science (living organisms; biology); Art (history; drawing); Maths (graph paper; symmetry); Computing (responsible online use)

Time: 20 minutes

Study this [article about the work of living artist, Cornelia Hesse Honnegger](#) about insect mutations caused by radiation at Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station and other nuclear sites. Her intricate study of collected specimens and scientific approach to illustration enables her to show the visible mutations that present as lack of symmetry in body form. Honnegger started her career using graph paper to mathematically draw insects.

Using graph paper draw an insect of your choice (e.g. ladybird or butterfly) and include a mutation on one side of the body which means they are not symmetrical.

Discuss what this means in terms of other living organisms in nuclear radiation areas.