

QCA Unit	3c (Introduction to Databases)					
Year Group	3	Number in class				
Time for lesson	1hr.	No. of computers				
Preparation Selected books/information on minibeasts, a print out for each group of the minibeasts database, a copy of question sheet, a copy of a blank database record sheet for each child/group to write on.						
Resources 2Investigate, as above						
Learning objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be able to identify records and fields of a database • To be able to identify advantages and disadvantages of using databases. 						
Technical Vocabulary <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Database</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Record</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Field</td> </tr> </table>				Database	Record	Field
Database	Record	Field				
Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the children distinguish between a record and a field by answering questions correctly? • Do children know advantages and disadvantages of using a database? 						
Introduction (10 mins) Setting the Scene: With each child or each group having an information book on minibeasts, discuss how difficult it is to extract specific information when it is just writing and not organised. Discuss with the children what information they would like to find out about insects and give them chance to find it in their books. Your own database could be created on a relevant topic that you are doing.						

Main activity

Discuss the problems that have come up such as having to read lots to find the information that you need or having to scan the whole text to find the information. Give each child/group a paper based copy of the minibeast database. Discuss the way that the information has been organised so that it is easier to access.

Tell the children that each sheet of paper is called a record and each bit of information on the record is called a field. Ask the children to think how it might be helpful for the information to be put into a database file like this. Also discuss the disadvantages of this information too. This can be done as a written activity or could simply be done as a question and answer session.

With the question sheet, ask children the questions, making sure they are aware of the difference between records and fields. Once completed, discuss how these are records that are numbered and are part of one file. Discuss that there are many more insects than the ones labelled in the database. Ask the children to use the minibeast topic books to make another record for an insect that is in their books by writing on the blank sheet. If there is no time for this to be finished, it can be done anytime before the next lesson.

Extension

Children could devise more than one extra record for the database.

Plenary (5 mins)

Recap on the vocab learnt throughout the lesson and the advantages and disadvantages of sorting through records.

Homework

None