



Ladybird

The seven-spot ladybird is one of the most common British species of this little beetle and there are 40 other species of ladybirds in this country. The bright red, yellow and black colours are a warning to predatory birds that it contains poisons which make it dangerous for them to eat. Ladybirds and their larvae eat hundreds of aphids, which make them a gardener's friend. Each female lays about 200 eggs and the larva are greyish in colour and grow much longer

than an adult ladybird. After 3 weeks, the larva turns into a pupa and then after about a week, the adult ladybird emerges.

Activities

Sit or stand silently for 3 minutes. Note down interesting things you can see and hear.

I can see	I can hear

Which other mini-beasts do you think might stay in the bug hotel?

Tick the box if you see each stage of a ladybird's life.

Eggs

Larva

Pupa

Adult



Take a walk around the garden, looking carefully for ladybirds as you go. Where do you think you might see the most?

Did you know?

Ladybirds often hibernate in tree bark or under windowsills in the winter.

Re-read "The Bad-Tempered Ladybird" by Eric Carle when you get the chance. It's very funny but there is some science in it as it mentions aphids and it's true that some ladybirds do fly across the sea.