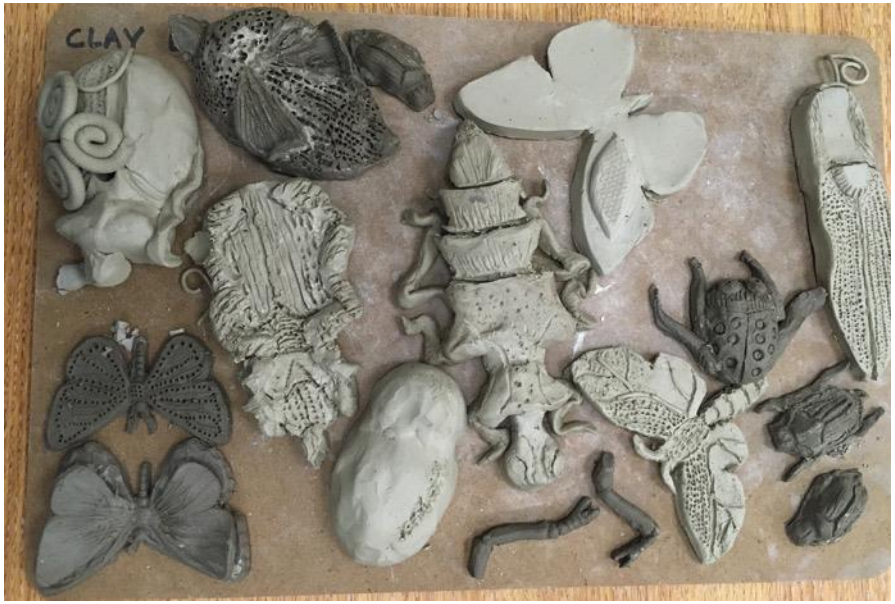
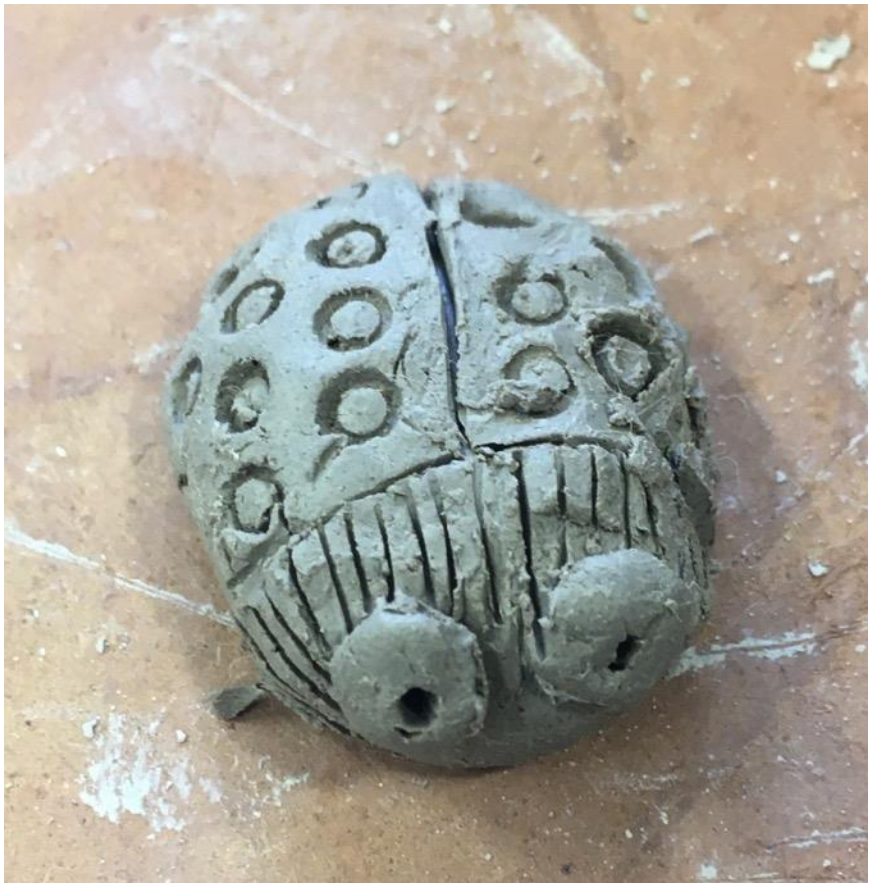
The Arty Mini Beasts Home project



Nottingham Schools Trust
Art to make at home.

Make a mini beast



To make a mini beast you will need

Pictures of your mini beast

Your mini beast fact file

Some salt dough and paints

A board and an apron

Tools such as a butter knife, safety scissors

or thin sticks to add

designs, patterns and features of a mini beast

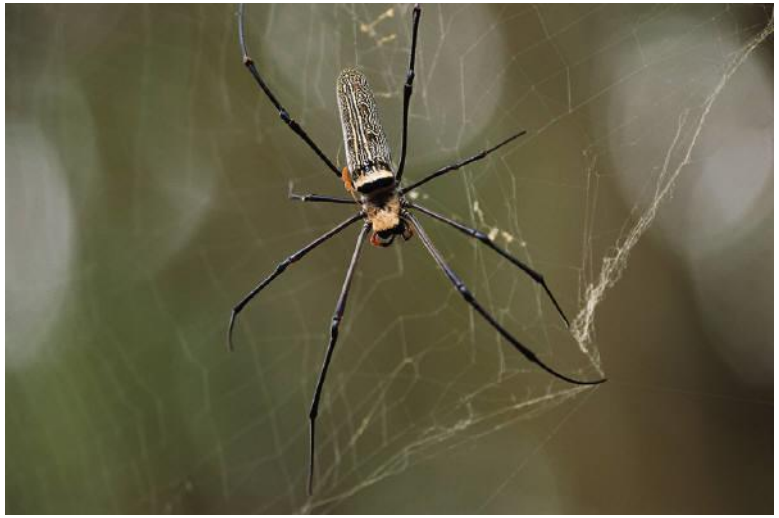
Tiny sticks, leaves, pebbles or wire to create legs and other features of your mini beast

A place to share your work outside

Garden Mini Beasts

for brilliant images, information and activities go to the Wildlife Trust website:

- Looking after yourself and nature
- Have a look in your outdoor spaces and see what you can find….



Fact file

Find out everything you can about your mini beast and create a fact file which is bright, colourful and full of facts!

A really helpful introduction to mini beast fact files can be found on The Young People's Trust for the Environment

In **your fact file** please include

- a drawing, painting or photograph
- how many legs, eyes and body parts it has
- where it lives and what kind of habitat it has made
- what it eats and how it catches its prey
- Special features of your mini beast

Things to keep you safe

Please note…

- Children must not taste the dough.
- Always work with an adult when using tools
- Tables must be wiped down after the activity.
- Children must wash their hands with soap and water after the activity.
- Only an adult on their own or upper key stage 2 children may use an oven with one to one supervision.

Make your own dough

For a mini beast sculpture that will last you need to make out of Salt Dough

Easy to make and sculpt into different shapes, add design, patterns and textures, can be ‘cooked’ in the oven and then painted.

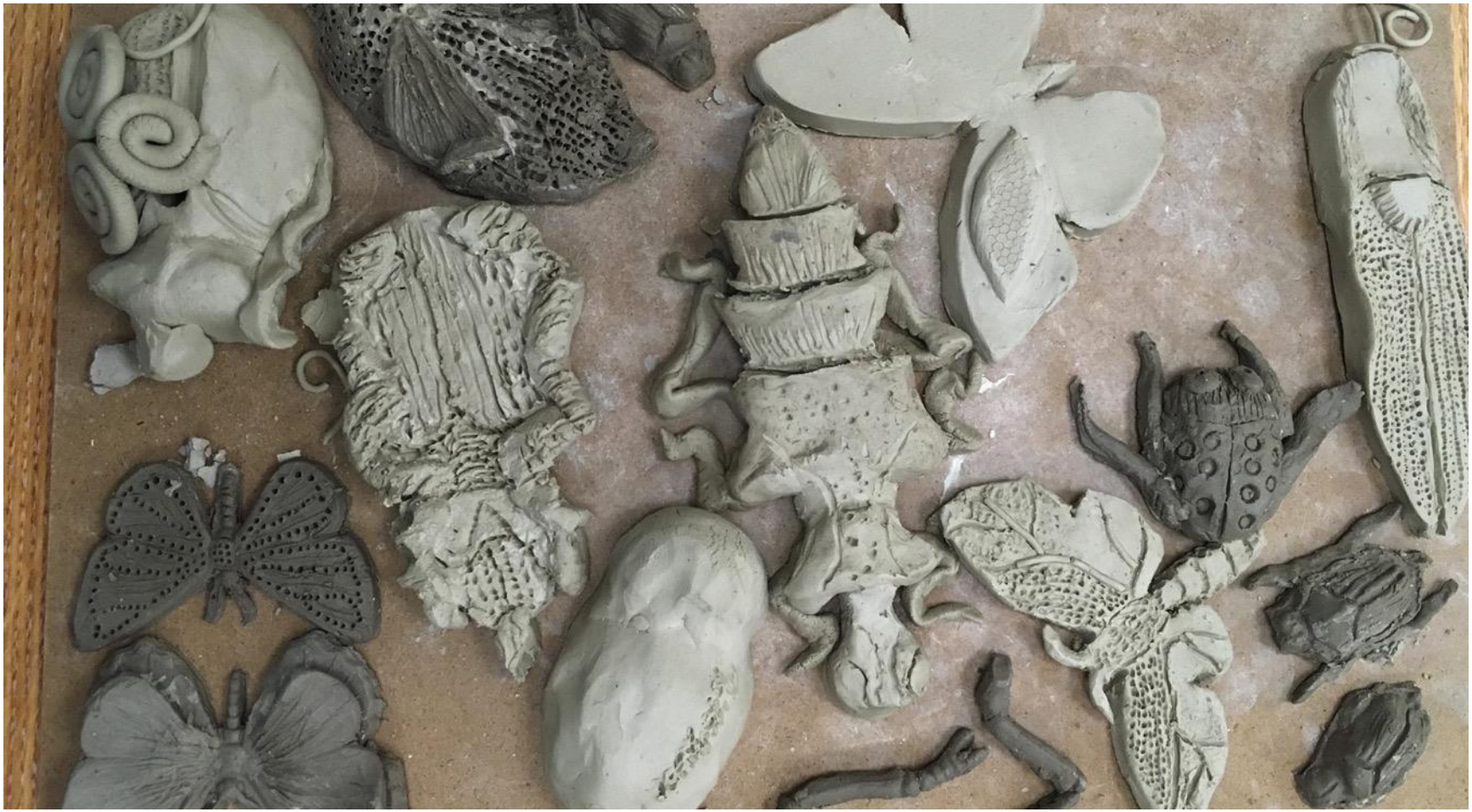
https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/how-make-salt-dough-recipe

You could also try making your own Play Dough

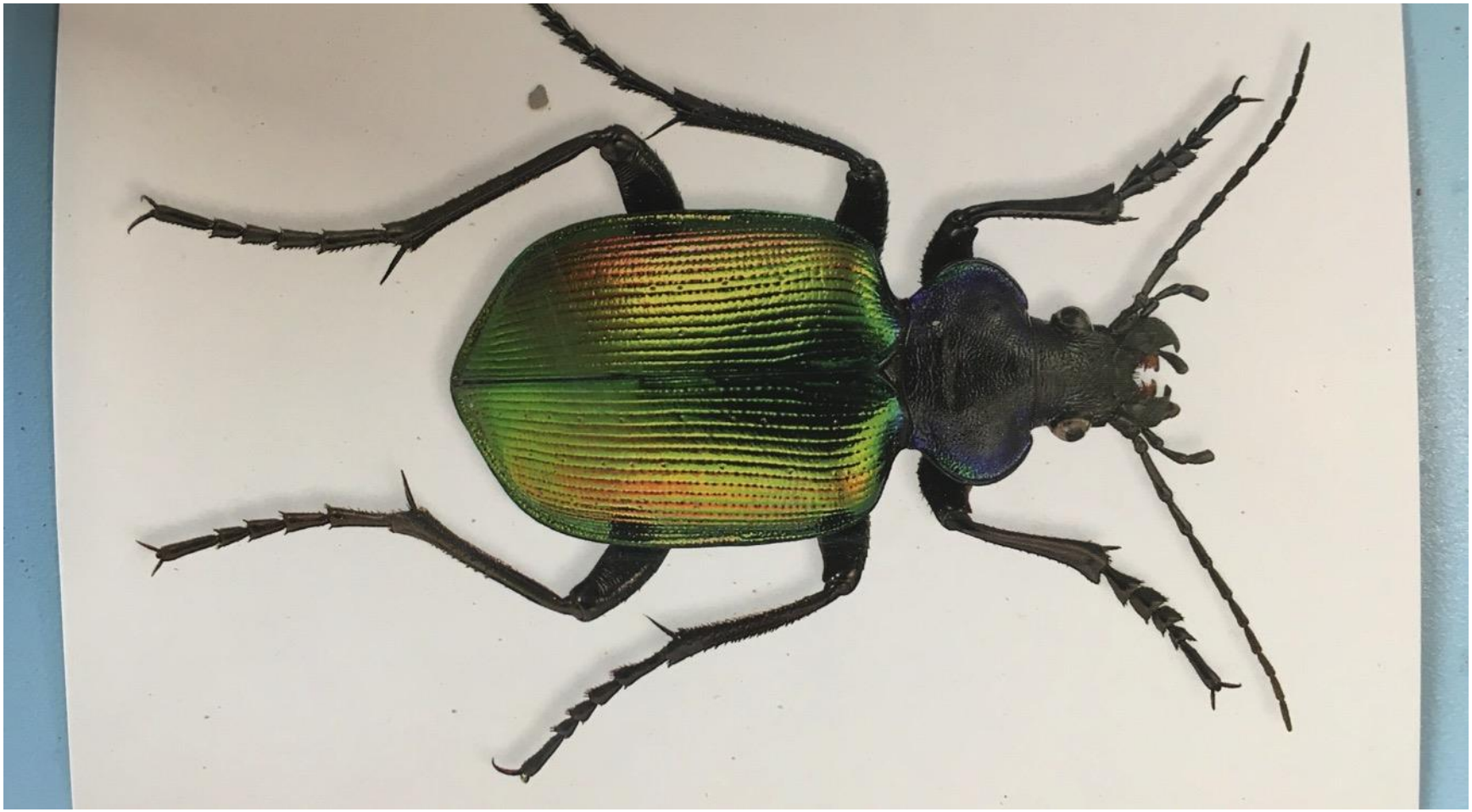
Easy to make and sculpt into different shapes, add design, patterns and textures.

https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/playdough-recipe

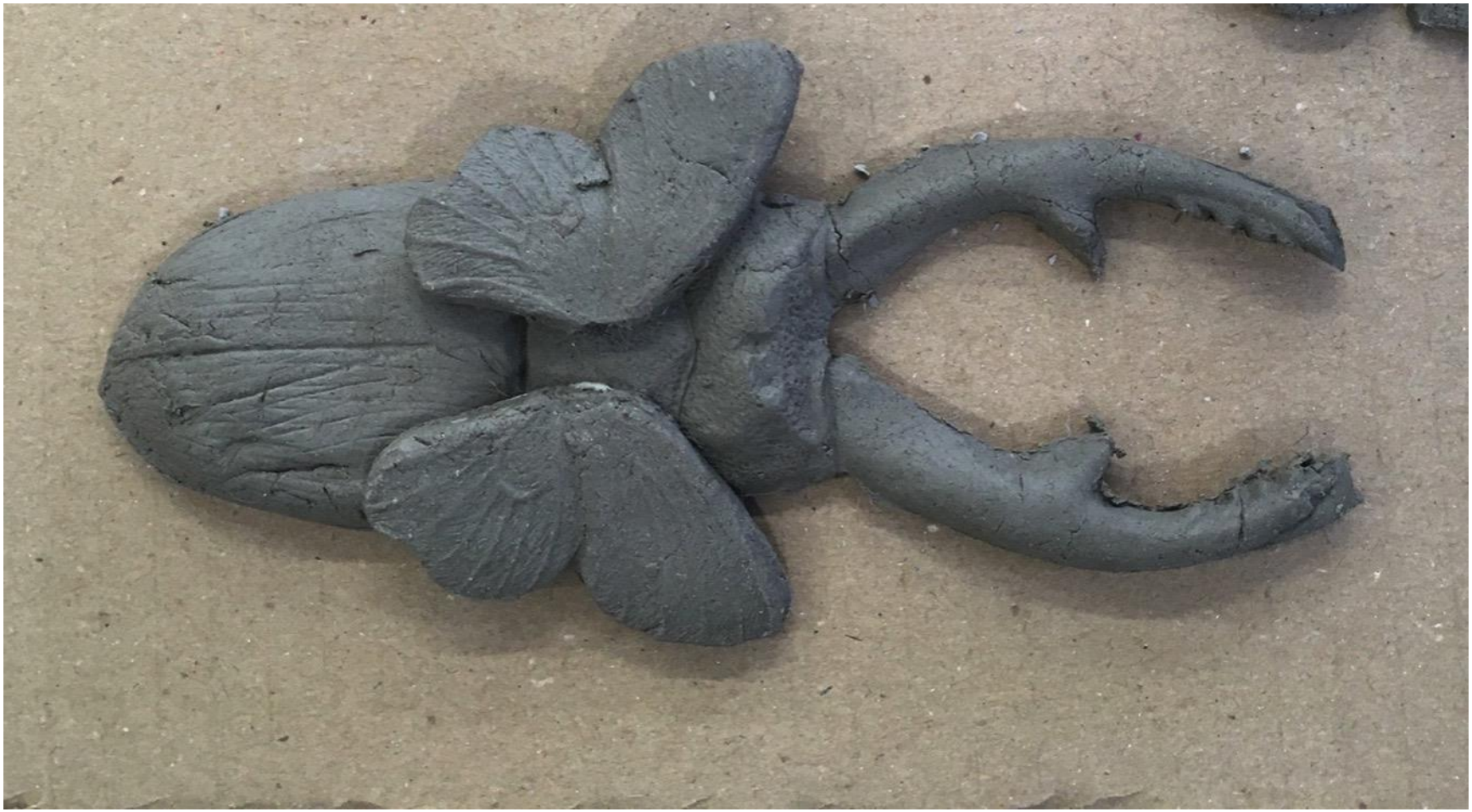
Different mini beast ideas



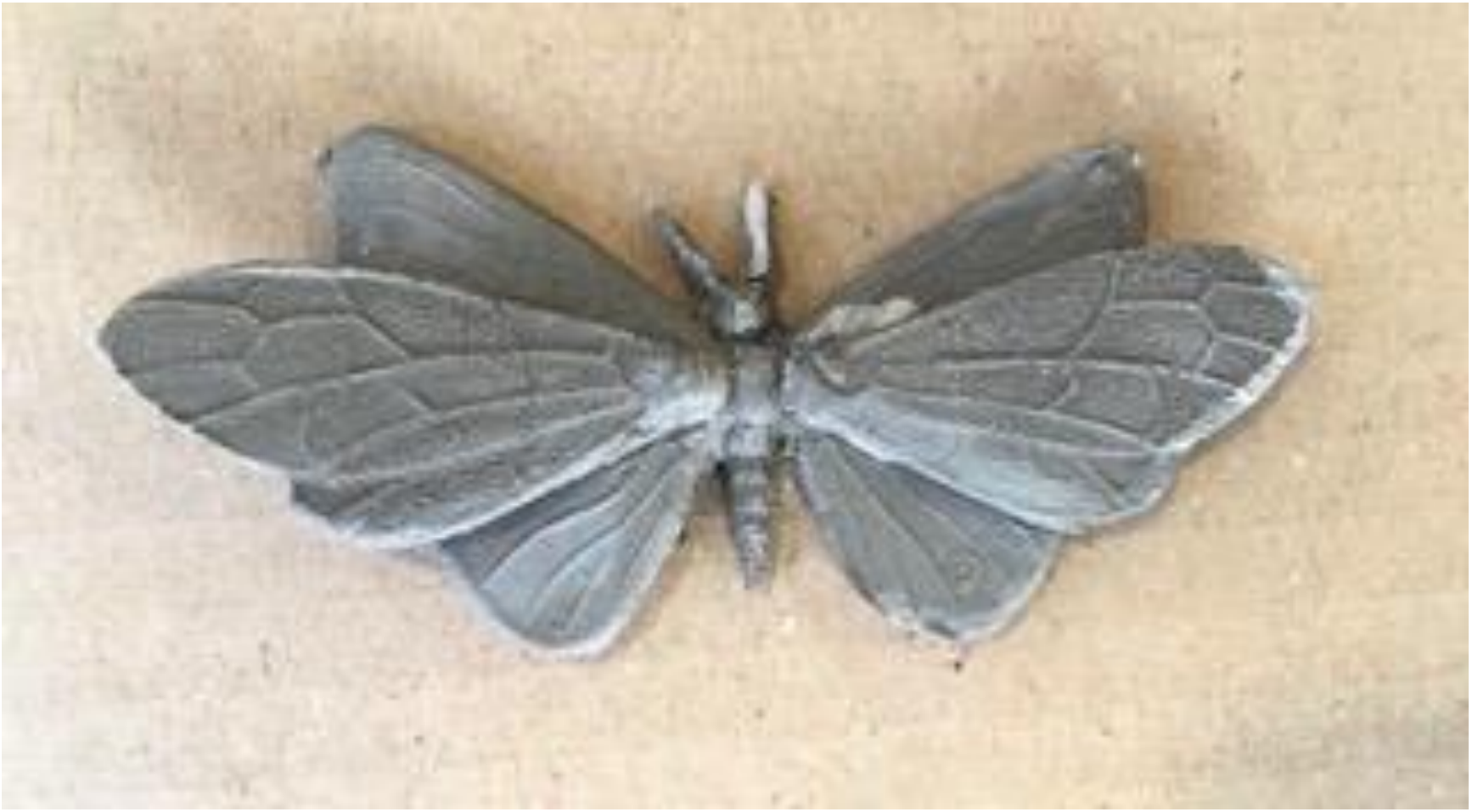
Yikes!



Shape the main details

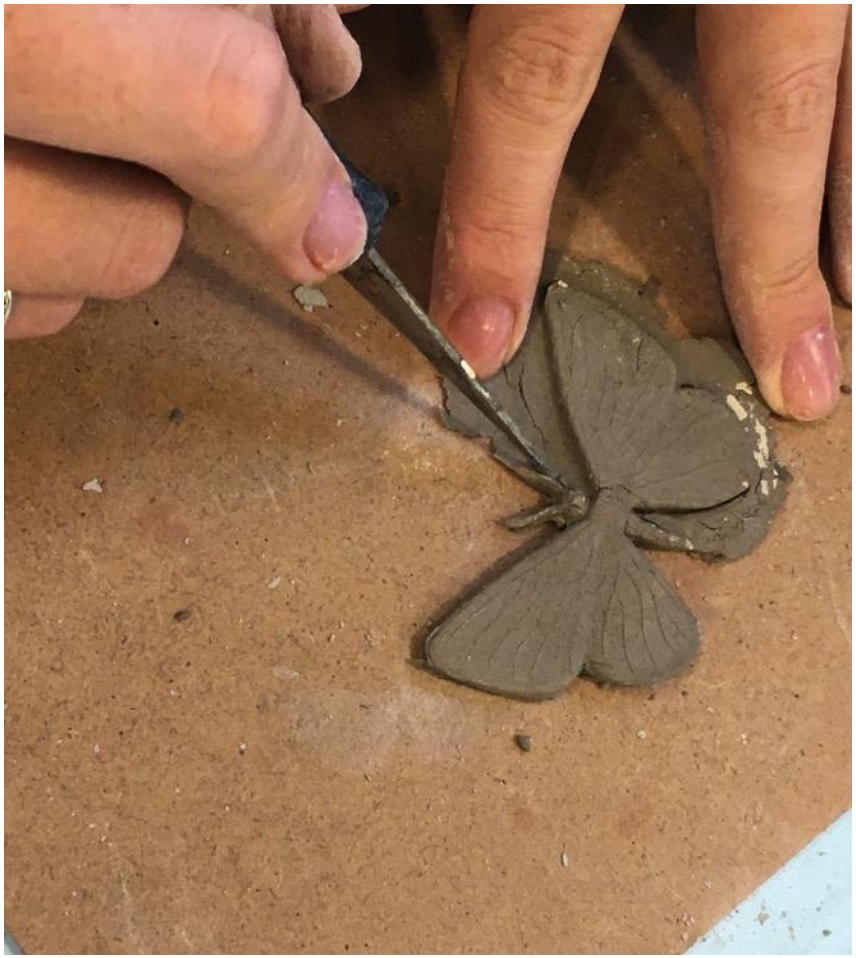


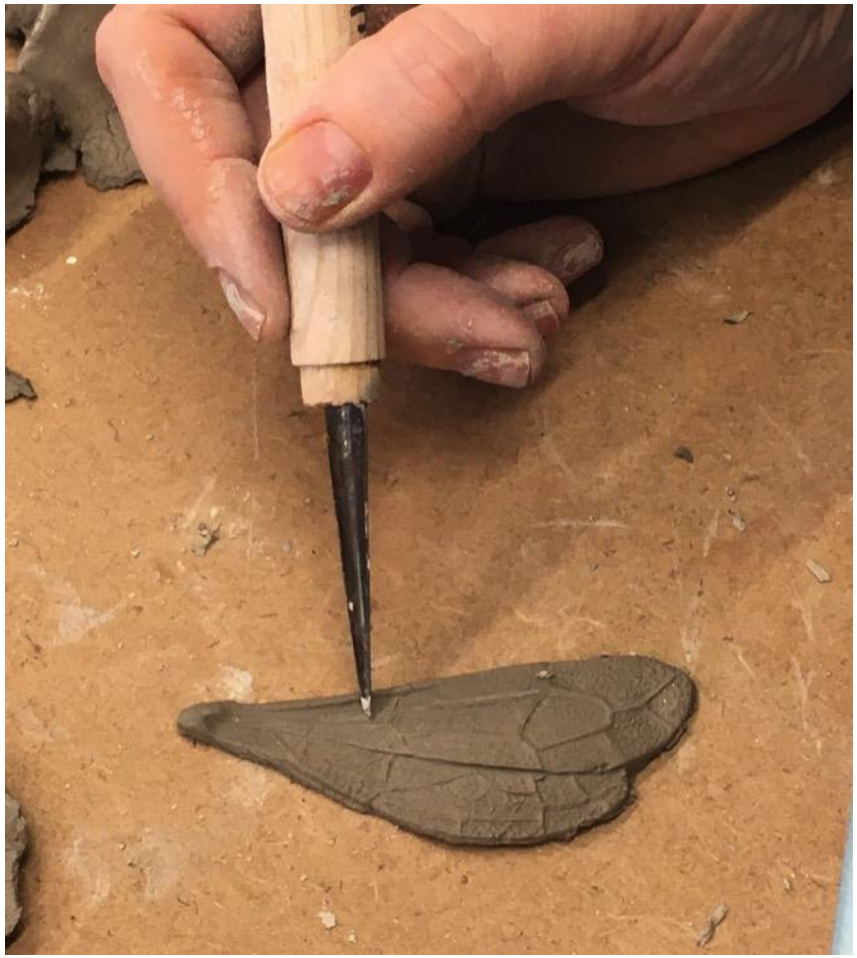
Add wings



Add features

If you are making legs make sure they are close to the insects body and short so they don’t break or snap off. You could use twigs or wire as they are stronger.





Finishing stages

Insect bodies could be sculpted and then detail such as wings, antenna could be made from natural material additions

- You might find these things on your exercise walks / gardens, or pantries, you could try dried lentils and other beans to create face features.
- Bake the dough in the oven to make it hard and long lasting
- Leave it to cool
- Paint and/or varnish it with PVC glue or a clear wood varnish
- Find the perfect outdoor place for it to live and take a photo!

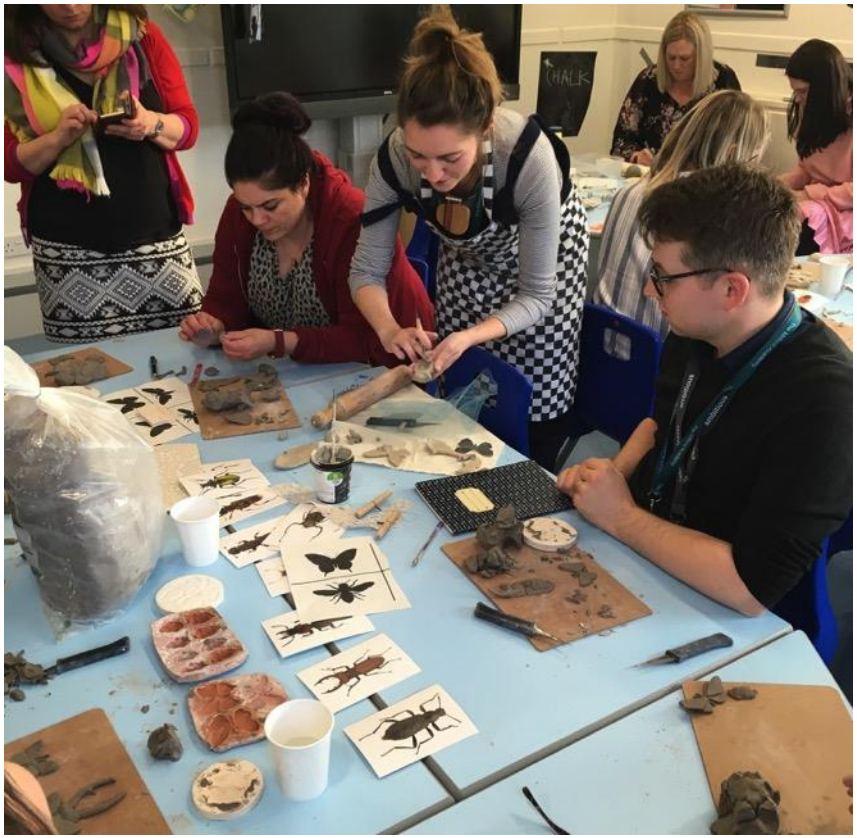
NST Art Network for teachers

Anna Collette Hunt

Nottingham School Trust's

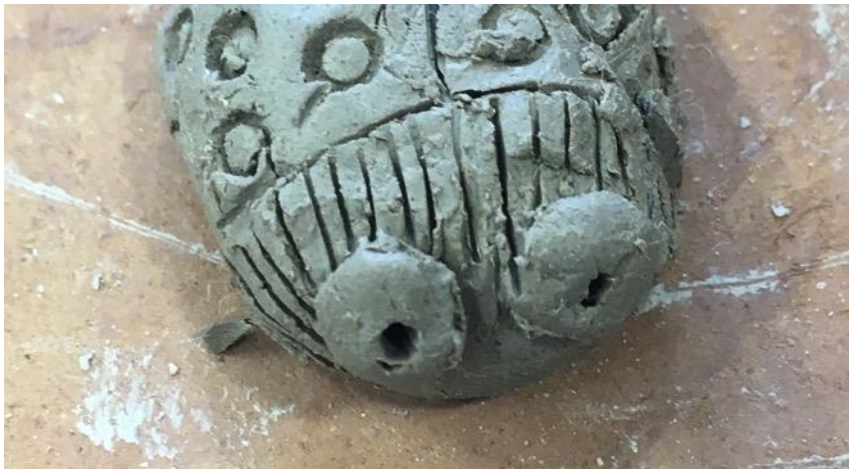
Art Coordinators worked with the talented local artist Anna Collette Hunt for inspiration, techniques and to develop their professional skills in ceramics. Check out her website to be wowed and inspired by her work: https://www.annacollettehunt.com

Ceramist



Share your work

We would love to see your mini beast sculptures
Take a photo of your mini beast in your outdoor space and send it to your teacher at school or to Emily at Emily.Humphreys@nottinghamschoolstrust.org.uk
and we'll put it on the
Nottingham School Trust website



Mini beast information from www.rbkc.gov.uk

Minibeast or Invertebrate groups

- Lacewings, these are large green flies with long transparent wings. They are carnivorous and eat aphids. Most only live for a summer although some overwinter.

Molluscs – gastropods (muscular foot)

- Glass snail, this is a small snail with a thin translucent shell and blue body. It feeds on plants and algae.
- Garden snail, this is the most common snail species. They are hermaphrodites and lay about 200 eggs. Snails eat mainly dead or dying plant matter and hibernate during the winter. They are most active during moist warm weather. They feed using their toothed tongue known as a radula.
- Slugs, over 30 Slug species live in the UK. Common species to the park are the great black slug (which can vary in colour from black to orange), the leopard slug (spotted) and the garden slug (black with an orange foot).

Isopods (seven pairs of legs)

- Woodlice, the most common of the 35 species native to the UK is the garden woodlouse. A woodlouse's diet is rotting wood and a woodlouse can spend its whole life on a single log. They give birth to over 150 babies which are carried in a pouch by the females. Some species can roll into a ball when threatened. They have many common names like pillbugs, slaters, woodbugs, doodlebugs and sowbugs.

Mini beast information

Myriapods (numerous legs)

- Millipedes, millipedes means a thousand legs but most species only have a few hundred legs. All millipedes are detritivores and have two pairs of legs per body segment.
- Centipedes, a hundred legs is the literal meaning of the word centipede. No species has exactly 100 legs. Centipedes are fast moving predators that kill their prey by biting and injecting poison. Large centipedes can nip humans.

Arachnids (four pairs of legs and two body parts)

- Harvestman, these are close relatives of spiders but cannot spin webs and do not have fangs. They are long legged and have a round body. They catch their prey by hooks on their legs.
- Spiders have eight legs, two body parts, fangs and can create silk. Most species catch their prey in webs whilst others hunt or make traps. There are no native deadly spider species although large species can bite.

Annelids (segmented worm) Earthworm

- There are over 70 species in the UK. They eat dead organic matter in the soil and help fertilise the soil by bringing the nutrients to the surface. It is not true that cutting a worm in two results in two live worms, most often one or both parts die.

Mini beast information

Food chains and food webs

- A food chain shows a simplified feeding relationship in a habitat. They are useful to show how plants and animals are connected.
- Food webs show the different relationships more fully with many interconnected food chains.
- Green plants are termed producers as they convert energy from the sun into food for themselves by a process called photosynthesis.
- Consumers
- Consumers are animals that get their energy directly or indirectly from plants. Primary consumers or herbivores eat plants as their source of energy. Examples of herbivores in a woodland are grasshoppers and crickets.
- Animals that eat other animals are called carnivores. In a food chain, secondary consumers eat primary consumers to obtain their energy while a tertiary consumer is one that eats a secondary consumer or other animals.
- Omnivores eat both plant and animals.
- Detritivores eat dead organic matter (plants or animals) to survive. In a minibeast hunt on the woodland floor the majority of the animals collected are likely to be detritivores as they are feeding on the dead leaves and wood.

Action for Insects!

- There is lots of information and activities to get involved with The Wildlife Trust's special mini beasts campaign to save our insects.
- Head over to their website and see what you can do to make a difference!
- https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/action-insects-1

Other creative ideas
Try plant art from The Toy Library, Bulwell