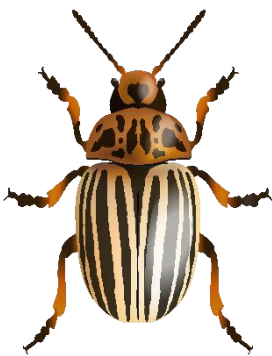


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

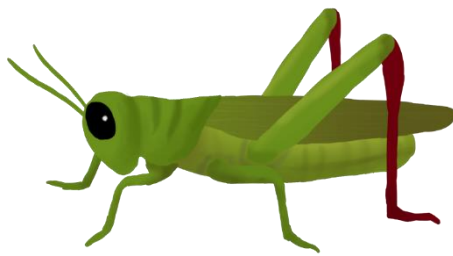
## Phoneme Finders: Peter's Dinner

Minibeasts are small animals living all around us, like spiders. The word 'spider' has the 'er' phoneme at the end of it. This phoneme is often found at the end of words like letter or teacher, but can be found in any place in a word.

Find the minibeasts with the 'er' phoneme in their names!



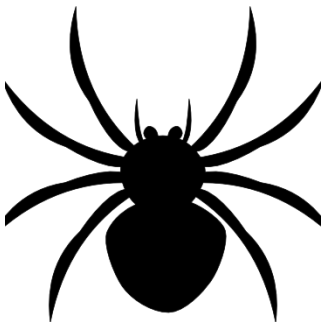
beetle



grasshopper



ladybird



spider



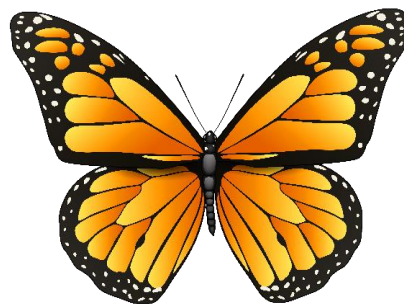
caterpillar



bee



snail



butterfly

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Peter the spider is ready for his dinner. His web can catch any minibeast with the 'er' phoneme in its name.

Draw lines from Peter the spider to all the minibeasts he catches to make his web!

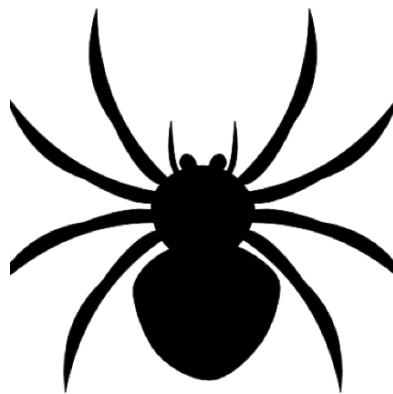
hoverfly

millipede

cricket

termite

slug



earwig

robberfly

Peter

tiger moth

pond skater

worm

dragonfly

It's not just minibeasts that have the 'er' phoneme in their name. Can you think of any other animals with 'er'?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Guidance for Parents

This reading activity should help your child practice their phonics. This activity is aimed at early readers i.e. KS1 who are able to sound out. It is designed to practice reading/‘decoding’ to help with understanding new texts.

The focus is on the ‘er’ phoneme/sound as in ‘locker’ or ‘nerve’. This is represented by the ‘er’ grapheme/letters. This is taken from the national curriculum. If your child’s school uses the ‘Read Write Inc’ phonic scheme, this phoneme is from Set 3 and is called ‘*er, better letter*’. Children should read through the different minibeast names, identifying instances where the phoneme is used.

Helping learners recognise ‘er’:

- ‘Er’ sounds similar to ‘ir’ in ‘ladybird’ and ‘or’ in ‘worm’, which have both been included to reinforce this to learners. Becoming familiar with the different graphemes/letters that code for a similar phoneme should help with both reading and writing.
- The grapheme ‘ear’ looks similar to ‘er’ despite coding for a different phoneme. The phoneme ‘ear’ is also part of Set 3: ‘*ear, hear with your ear*’. To help children learn to easily distinguish these ‘earwig’ has been included.
- Depending on the dialect of the speaker, ‘er’ often has a devoiced/soft sound at the end of the words as in ‘spider’. This is a lot like ‘or’ and ‘ar’ in some words, for example ‘tractor’ and ‘caterpillar’. The latter word has been included to help gently introduce this similarity. (This soft sound is called the ‘schwa’ and is the most common sound in English, representing unstressed syllables, see the ‘a’ in ‘about’, the ‘e’ in ‘taken’, the ‘i’ in ‘cousin’, the ‘o’ in ‘parrot’, the ‘u’ in ‘support’, the ‘y’ in ‘syringe’ etc. Researching this vowel will help assist children with sounding out, as it often proves confusing).