

Go on a Bug Scavenger Hunt!

We might think of insects as pests and forget that they benefit nature. Many of our wonderful flowers wouldn't exist without bees, flies, and butterflies to pollinate them. During this scavenger hunt, you'll learn to identify insects and how each contribute to nature.

What you'll need:

- Magnifying glass
- Journal
- Markers
- A bug hut
- A field guide to identifying insects

Directions:

1. Invite friends over to your house for a bug hunting party. Look around your yard for as many kinds of bugs that you can find. Try locating a ladybug, a beetle, a bee, a fly and a butterfly.
2. Use your journal to create a critter case file. Record the types of bugs you've found and note how many of each. You can make a contest out of who found the weirdest bug, the smallest bug, the largest bug and the most bugs.
3. Gently place some of the bugs inside the bug hut. Take extra care to handle the bugs gently. Use the field guide to identify the bugs and to find out how they benefit nature.
4. Choose one of the bugs and draw a picture of it in your critter case file. Use the magnifying glass and get an up-close look at all its features.
5. Below the picture, write a brief description about its looks, behaviors and how it contributes to nature. Share your observations with the others.
6. After you've finished, release the insects back into their wildlife habitat.