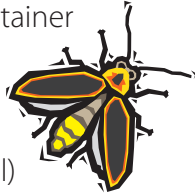


Go on a Bug Hunt

What You Need:

- Adult helper
- Clear plastic/glass container
- Paper towel
- Camera (optional)
- Paper (optional)
- Pencil or pen (optional)
- Gloves (optional)
- Bug field guide (optional)



Never pick up a bug unless you are certain it is safe.

Safety Note:

If you live in an area with potentially dangerous animals (e.g. venomous spiders or snakes, scorpions), use caution and common sense. For example, have an adult guide the bug hunt, wear gloves, and don't reach where you can't see. If you're concerned about potentially dangerous critters, hunt for obviously safe insects, such as flies, moths, and butterflies.

What to Do:

From the fruit flies you might see in your kitchen to the ants crawling around outside, bugs can be found almost anywhere. (There's even a bug—a midge—that lives in Antarctica!) For the purposes of this activity, we're defining "bug" as anything that's creepy-crawly, squirmy, or fun to find. This includes true insects, such as ants, beetles, and butterflies; arachnids (spiders); terrestrial crustaceans (isopods, aka pillbugs); and myriapods (centipedes and millipedes). Finding bugs is usually pretty easy, and it's a great way to learn about the many kinds of bugs out there.



Use your own container or purchase a bug house.

Before you begin your hunt, prepare the container. Roll up a piece of paper towel and drip some water onto it. Place the moist paper towel inside the container. Poke holes into the top of the container for air. (As an alternative, you can also purchase a bug house.)

One of the best places to look for bugs is in a garden—or even the leaves/dirt of a potted plant. You can also gently lift up logs or rocks, and you might find bugs by digging into the ground with your hands. At night, bugs are attracted to light. So walk around with a flashlight, or look near your porch light. Bugs buzz around near water sources, too, like lakes and rivers—but children should always have an adult helper along for safety.

Continued on the next page.



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When you find bugs, many will try to scurry away. But if you place your container in their path, you can often gently coax one (or scoop one) into it. Toss in some dirt or leaves from where you found your bug. Then affix the top and take a closer look at your find.

While you observe your bug, keep the container moist but not wet. This will prevent the bug from drying out. Don't leave a pool of water in the container, though. Insects and other bugs can drown pretty easily.

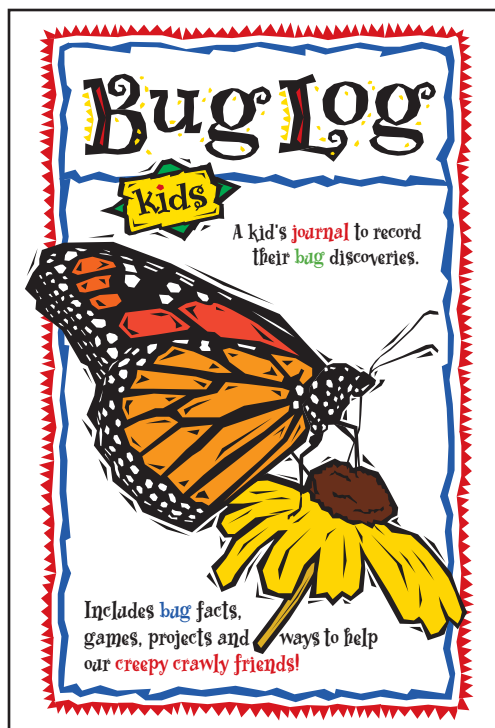
Identify your bug if you can. Look at a field guide such as *Backyard Bugs* by Jaret C. Daniels, or visit a website like BugGuide.com. Observe your creepy-crawly. Draw a picture, take a photograph, and/or make notes about what it does or how it acts.



Wrapping Up:

When you're done observing your bug, return it to where you found it. Clean out your bug house, and start another bug-hunting adventure!

Have Fun. Enjoy the Bugs!



Educators have long known about the positive effects that come from journaling. This log book is designed to help build the self-esteem of kids through creating something of their own—their own artwork, written observations—their own keepsake!

Inside You'll Find:

- ▶ **30 Log pages** that gently guide kids to record their important observations, written and drawn
- ▶ Illustrations of different **Bug Bodies** with all the parts labeled for easy identification
- ▶ A **Life List** to record up to 30 different bugs seen
- ▶ **8 Photo/Art pages** to attach a photo, make a collage, or create artwork
- ▶ **8 Coloring pages** with outlined images of popular bugs
- ▶ A **Log Tips page** for special hints on using this log and basics in bug discovery