

THE GREAT BUG EXPEDITION

With the amazing variety of insects and other bugs in the world, it is often possible to discover several types of bugs in just one small area.



With your parents' permission, choose a place to explore that you think might have a wide variety of bugs, such as a slow-moving stream or a wetland. This area will be your **ecosystem**.



Search the ecosystem to see how many different kinds of bugs you can find. Record your findings on the back side of this sheet.

What To Bring: This lesson, a pencil, some Insect Identification Sheets, and an adult to supervise.



What we commonly refer to as "bugs" are small creatures with lots of legs and an exoskeleton, or shell-like body. The scientific term is "arthropod", but that would also include crabs and lobsters.



ENTOMOLOGISTS AT WORK

How many kinds of bugs are there around here?

What is the level of arthropod biodiversity in this ecosystem?

Hey! Didn't we just say the same thing?

Yes! But I get paid more for saying it my way!

Happy Hunting!

Definition: An ENTOMOLOGIST is somebody who studies insects.

BUG EXPEDITION NOTES

Entomologists:

Place:

Month:

Weather:

Record bug diversity in this chart by making a tally mark every time you see a different type of bug.

How many kinds can you find of each of these?

INSECT	6 legs	
ARACHNID (spiders & scorpions)	8 legs, no wings	
OTHER ARTHROPODS (centipedes, millipedes, pillbugs)	more than 8 legs, no wings	




Now choose one or two of the most interesting insects and record observations for each of them on the following Insect Identification sheets.

INSECT IDENTIFICATION SHEET

Circle everything that you observed about the insect you saw.
That means you may circle more than one choice in a line.

HEAD





Eyes

no eyes seen tiny dots large, bug-eyes





Some insects have ocelli, three tiny eyes between the two large ones.

Antennae

small large feathery clubbed couldn't see any




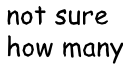
Mouthparts

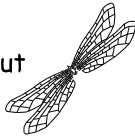
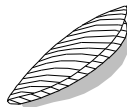

sipping proboscis piercing cutting mandibles other couldn't tell

THORAX - the wings and legs grow out of the thorax

Wings

none two four not sure how many






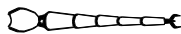
wings stick out from body wings fold up around body wings form a shell

Legs How many legs were there?
(If more than 6, this is NOT an insect!) Could you see the joints of the legs?

ABDOMEN

Abdomen Type





plump oval long & thin

Special Abdomen Features:



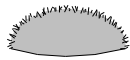




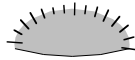
spikes pincher stinger lights up other?

BODY COVERING

fuzzy



spiky



smooth



couldn't tell

MOBILITY

How does this insect prefer to move?

fly



hop



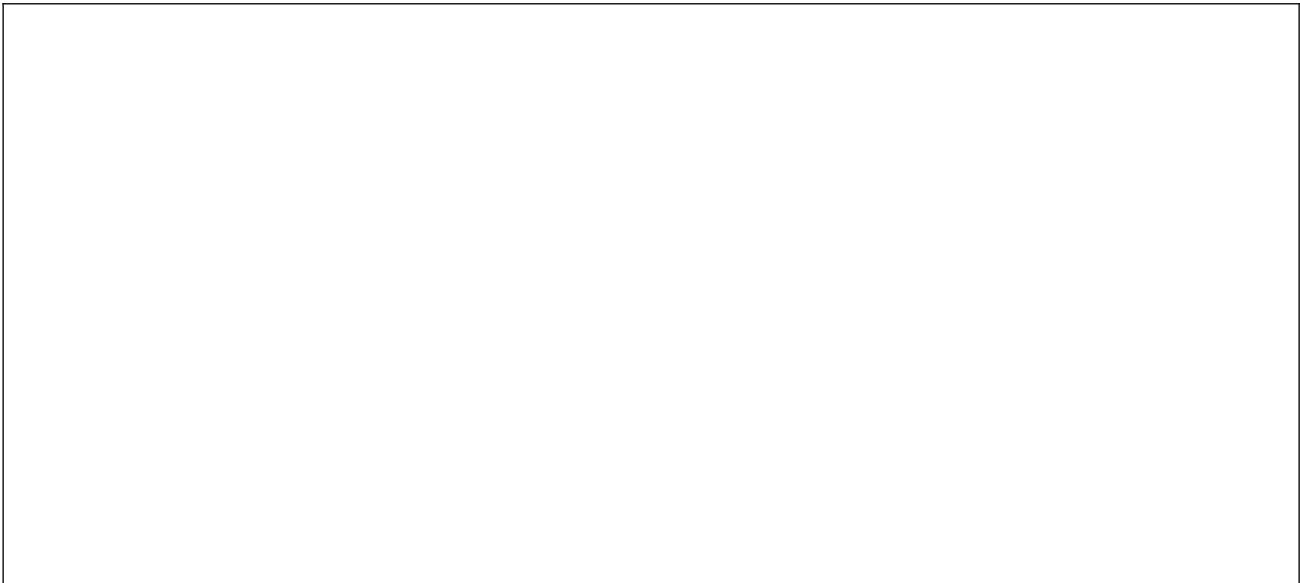
crawl or scurry



no movement observed

How big is this insect?

Do a rough sketch of the insect. You don't have to be a great artist, but try to make your drawing about the same size as the insect.



Colors?

List its colors, or put them into your sketch.

Sounds?

Describe any special sounds the insect makes.

Activity?

What was the insect doing?

Kind?

Can you identify the insect? What is it?