

# Bug Safari

Insects and other animals without backbones (invertebrates) are all around us. Take time today to get to know some of the common bugs that help pollinate our plants, keep nutrients cycling, and fill many other roles in nature. You may only have to go as far as your backyard!

To complete the Bug Safari, just print this page, or follow on a device, and see how many of these bugs you can find! Look closely at the bugs and let them go afterward. They have important work to do!

## Can you find them all?

### Equipment:

- this safari page
- a pencil
- a small jar (just for a close look)
- sunscreen, hat
- phone or camera for pictures

## Beetles (Coleoptera)

**Name:**  
Ladybug

**Where do I find it?**  
On plants where aphids might be

**Fun facts:**  
Ladybugs eat soft little bugs, like aphids. Most are reddish but there are yellow, black and pink species.



**Name:**  
Ground Beetle

**Where do I find it?**  
Running on the ground, under logs, rocks

**Fun facts:** Many of these are fierce predators that hunt other bugs.



**Name:**  
Isopod  
(a.k.a. pillbug, sowbug)

**Where do I find it?**  
Along the ground and under rocks and logs

**Fun facts:**  
Isopods are decomposers, like earthworms. While it may look like a millipede or an insect, these harmless bugs are actually crustaceans, related to crabs!

## Flies (Diptera)

**Name:**  
Cranefly

**Where do I find it?**  
Around vegetation

**Fun facts:**  
These long-legged, narrow-winged flies can be mistaken for giant mosquitoes when in fact, they are totally harmless. Flies can be recognized because they have two wings, while most insects have four.



**Name:**  
Yellowjacket

**Where do I find it?**  
Flying in forests, gardens, and parks.

**Fun facts:** Famous for their painful sting, these wasps live in colonies. They kill bugs that people consider pests.



**Name:** Bumble Bee

**Where do I find it?**  
On flowers drinking nectar

**Fun facts:** They are covered with hairs, which makes them great at carrying pollen between flowers, helping many plants to grow fruit.



## Wasps and Bees (Hymenoptera)

