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EDUCATION

# Adopt a Bug

Learners will connect to the world of small by collecting and observing “bugs”.

 Magnifying glass, nature journal, bug net, collection jar

 Grades: K-7  30-60 minutes  Activity sheet included

## Introduction

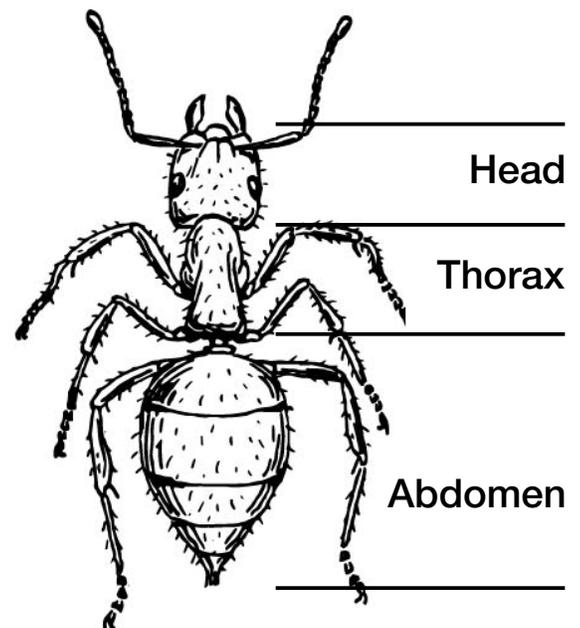
Although we tend to refer to all creepy crawly critters that we see as bugs, scientists would actually call them arthropods. Learn more about the different kinds of critters using this handy **Bug Background**.

## Activity

Create a bug collection jar, grab a net and head outside. Many bugs can be found by gently moving leaf litter and needles aside on the ground, lifting rocks, looking on tree trunks as well as exploring around gardens and flower beds.

## Create a Bug Collector

1. Find a clear jar for your bug collection container.
2. Tape a screen or breathable material such as cheese cloth over the top, or carefully puncture holes in the lid (ask a parent to help with this).
3. Add structures like sticks, leaves, grass and cones for your bugs to explore.
4. Carefully collect bugs in the container.
5. Use a magnifying glass to investigate your bug.
  - What kind of bug is it?
  - What is it up to?
  - How does it move?
  - What does it eat?
6. Make observations about its body structure (wings, number of legs, tails, eyes).
7. Use the activity sheet (last page of this lesson) to draw a picture of your bug.
8. Use an app such as **Seek by iNaturalist** to help identify the type of bugs you find.
9. Respectfully return the bugs to nature when done.



*The ant has six legs and three parts or segments to its body. It is an insect.*



## Reflection

- Count how many bugs you collected. How many different species did you collect?
- Draw your favourite bug and its habitat.
- Write a funny comic/story about your bug. Include other bug characters and maybe even add yourself into the story.

## Fun Bugs Facts

- Butterflies taste using their feet.
- A flea can jump 200 times farther than its on body length.
- It is estimated that there are 7 quadrillion ants on the planet (7,000,000,000,000,000).
- Dragonflies have been on earth for 300 million years.
- A single honey bee colony can produce around 100kg of honey each year – that's 220 jars.
- Caterpillars have 12 eyes.

## Extension Resources

Listen to these read-aloud stories all about bugs:

**Small Wonders: Jean-Henri Fabre and His World of Insects** by Matthew Clark Smith, illustrated by Giuliano Ferri

**Under one Rock-Bugs, Slugs and others Ughs** by Anthony D Fredericks, illustrated by Jennifer Di Rubbio

**The Bug Collector** By Alex G. Griffiths

See this short video to learn about what makes an insect an insect: **What is an Insect**

# Adopt a Bug Investigation Sheet

**My bug:** \_\_\_\_\_

Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Location found: \_\_\_\_\_

Colour: \_\_\_\_\_

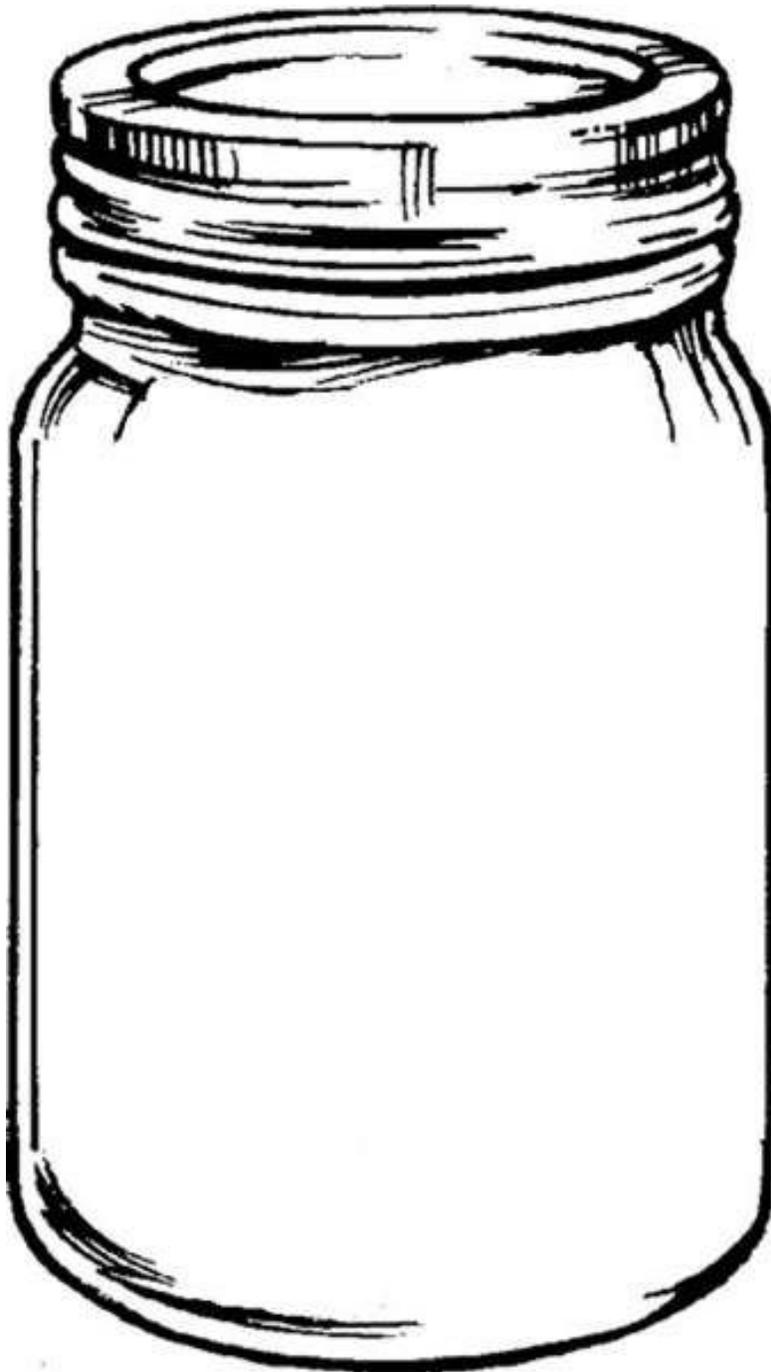
Number of legs: \_\_\_\_\_

Wings: \_\_\_\_\_

Does it pinch, bite or sting: \_\_\_\_\_

Observations about my bug:

My bug looks like  
this (draw your bug):



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