

Bug Hunting

All Ages

No need to make big plans for an epic expedition. Bug hunting can happen anytime anywhere. In fact, their abundance and small size make it easy to keep things simple and to go with the flow. There is just one rule; *be kind*. Bug hunts are a great opportunity for children to take charge and lead the activity. Let the children make the decisions and lead the hunt. The chance to feel a sense of control is an important experience, strengthening confidence and self-management. Exploratory fun encourages their willingness to ask questions and look for answers.

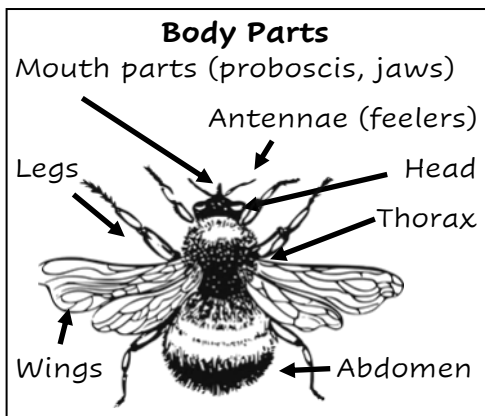
When it comes to wildlife, insects and spiders make a great topic of study. They are everywhere, making them easy to find, even in an urban setting. Many bugs hide among their favorite plants. Look in a garden, yard, park, hedges, and under rocks or logs. A magnifying glass is helpful. Once you start looking, the diversity is astounding! All that diversity offers so much more learning than simply identifying critters. Children are naturally full of questions, but it is important to resist the temptation to quickly provide answers. Once there is an answer, there is little need to continue investigating. Here are a few prompts to encourage exploring and thinking more deeply:

- * What do you see?
- * What do you think it is?
- * How is this one different from the other ones we've seen?
- * What does that make you wonder about?

Ask what they already know, and then what they want to know about an insect (or anything). This helps you focus the multitude of questions that bubble out of your children into a few answerable questions you can work on together. [Insect Identification for the Casual Observer](#) is a handy site for finding answers.

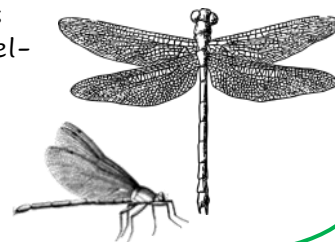
A bug hunt can be a 'spot-by-chance' activity where you examine whatever bugs you encounter. A theme, where you search for particular specimens, for example, Dragonfly Day, Metallic Coloured Bugs, Bugs that live in Flowers, are fun too. Either way, add to the learning by keeping a bug journal. Make field notes, sketches and jot down questions to answer later. (see page 2)

For more bug adventures try our *Alphabet Bug Hunt*, *Let's Go Logging*, *Mini Safari*, or *One Metre Hike*.



Tip: While insects have the same body parts, they vary greatly in appearance. Comparing the differences in common features can help you identify insects. For example; dragonflies lay their wings flat, while damselflies fold them over their backs.

Bug hunting improves your observation skills and attention to details.



How to make a simple, pocket-sized Bug Book.

- * Cut the page in half along the solid line.
- * Put the top half on top of the bottom half, and fold along the dotted line to form a booklet.
- * Add as many inside pages as you like. Use blank paper, lined paper or a combination of both.
- * Punch two holes on the fold using a hole punch.
- * Bind the pages together with round-head brass fasteners or ribbon. Add more pages as needed.

2021 - GET OUT! Kids' Club
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My Bug Book

By _____