

Winter Wildlife Series:

Week Seven: *Insects*

Vocabulary:

Insect: An invertebrate with six legs and three body parts: head, thorax, and abdomen.

Invertebrate: An animal that does not have a backbone, such as an insect, jellyfish, or spider.

Exoskeleton: The skeleton on the outside of an invertebrate's body. Not all invertebrates have exoskeletons. Worms, slugs, and jellyfish do not have an exoskeleton but are still invertebrates.

Arachnid: An invertebrate with 8 legs, like a tick, spider, or scorpion. Arachnids are not insects.

Bug Home:

Materials:

Shelter: a coffee can, tupperware, cardboard tube, small box, etc., Filling: paper scraps, sticks, woodchips, leaves, cardboard, etc.

Directions:

1. Take your shelter and stuff it with your filling, being sure to leave little nooks and crannies for bugs to hang out in.
2. Place your bug home somewhere where bugs can find it, preferably somewhere sheltered from the elements, such as under a tree, shed, awning, or some steps.
3. Check back in a few days for bugs. Be careful not to disturb them in their new home!

Ladybug Math (PreK-2):

Materials:

Colored pencils, worksheet

Directions:

1. Count the number of spots on each ladybug and put that number in the box next to each picture.
2. Depending on your worksheet, either add or multiply the number of spots to get a total number of spots.
3. Color in the ladybugs.

Monarch Math (3-5):

Materials:

Pencil

Directions:

1. Read the story of monarch migrations.
2. Complete the monarch math problems.

Get Outside!

Try your hands at a bug hunt. Even in the wintertime you can find bugs hanging around in holes in the trees or under rotting logs. As the winter comes to an end and spring arrives, so do many of our insect friends. Be on the lookout for bugs crawling around, it's a sign of warmer weather approaching!