

Bug Scavenger Hunt and Memory Game

Bug Hunt Instructions:

1. Print out one copy of the Bug Scavenger Hunt on card stock or other thick paper. You can laminate them for durability.
2. Cut out the individual cards.
3. Hole punch where indicated and put cards on a ring.
4. Print multiple copies of the I Found It Check Off List – one for each kiddo. They can mark the bugs they find each time they go out.
5. Take the Bug Hunt cards with you on walks, on field trips, etc. to encourage your kiddos to observe nature all around them.
6. Each card contains a fun fact about that particular bug as well as hints on where you might find that particular bug as you go exploring.

Bug Memory Game Instructions:

1. Print and cut out 2 copies of the Bug Cards (not the check off list) on card stock or other thick paper. You can laminate them for durability.
2. Shuffle cards and place them face down.
3. Have kiddos pick up and look at 2 cards of their choice. If the cards do not match, the turn them face down again and select 2 more cards. If the cards are a match, remove them from the playing surface and set them aside.
4. Continue turning over 2 cards at a time until the kids are able to remember and match each.
5. Continue until all cards have been matched.

Roly-Poly

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Where to look: under rocks, logs. They like cool, damp places near decaying plants to eat.

Fun Fact: Roly-poly or pill bugs are not insects. They are crustaceans – related to crayfish and crabs. They have 7 legs on each side (14 total).

Cricket

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Where to look: under rocks, logs, plant matter.

Fun Fact: Some crickets are nocturnal – they are active at night; but others chirp both day and night. Crickets make chirping noise by rubbing their forewings together.

Ant

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Where to look: near sand and dirt; in the cracks of sidewalks and driveways; bases of plants

Fun Fact: Ants are diurnal – they are active during the day. Many ants live underground in highly structured colonies.

Ladybug

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Where to look: in gardens and open, sunny habitats where aphids might be; near flowers

Fun Fact: Ladybugs are actually beetles. They eat aphids which are very harmful to gardens.

Spider

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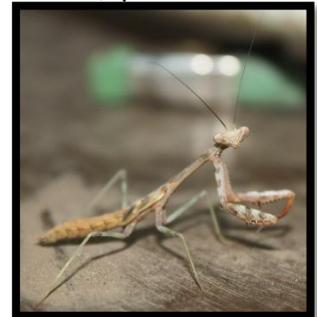


Where to look: in corners and overhangs of buildings, in shrubs and bushes

Fun Fact: Spiders eat other bugs by trapping them in a web or by hunting them and jumping on their prey.

Mantis

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Where to look: on bushes, shrubs, and vines; dense vegetation; sides of houses and on patio furniture

Fun Fact: Mantises hunt their prey and use their front legs to capture and eat. Mantises will watch you watch them – if you move, you can see them track you with their head movements.

FLY

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Where to look: around animals, houses, yards

Fun Fact: Some flies eat plants and flowers; others eat blood by biting animals or hunting other insects.

Grasshopper

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Where to look: grass areas, gardens, in and on bushes, shrubs, and vines; along ditch banks

Fun Fact: Wings can be brightly colored in some grasshoppers and make a crackling noise during flight.

Beetle

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Where to look: under rocks, in yards, under bushes, in and on plants

Fun Fact: Different beetles eat different things: some eat plants and other eat other bugs and some adult beetle do not eat at all! Some beetles fly.

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Bee



Where to look: around flowers

Fun Fact: Not all bees live in hive colonies. Some are solitary (live by themselves) and dig burrows in the ground or in wood.

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Butterfly



Where to look: near flowers, gardens and woodland edges; in open habitats (meadows)

Fun Fact: Some butterflies retain the poisons of their host plants.

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Dragonfly



Where to look: in ponds, along ditches,

Fun Fact: Dragonflies are important predators of mosquitos.

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Cicada



Where to look: in trees and tall shrubs

Fun Fact: Young cidas eat tree roots for 5-10 years, then one night they will climb the tree trunk and shed their skin to become an adult. The adult males produce the loud buzzing noises.

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Water Beetle



Where to look: fresh water ponds, semi-permanent puddles, and kiddie-pools

Fun Fact: Water beetles rise to the water surface to breath air. Some carry a water bubble under their abdomens as an air supply.



I Found It! Bug Hunt
Check Off List



Roly-Poly

Butterfly

Ant

Bee

Dragonfly

Cicada

Water Beetle

Mantis

Cricket

Ladybug

Spider

Fly

Grasshopper

Beetle

Name: _____ Date: _____



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Check Off List



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Butterfly

Ant

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Dragonfly

Cicada

Water Beetle

Mantis

Cricket

Ladybug

Spider

Fly

Grasshopper

Beetle

Name: _____ Date: _____

About Marta...

I am the proud mother of 2 small-ish boys; one of which has been a bug-lover since the tender age of 3. I work part-time as a geologist for a small environmental firm in Albuquerque, NM. I am so blessed that I am able to do the majority of my work from a home office which has allowed me to stay home with my precious boys.

I would like to dedicate this Bug Hunt activity to all the amazing moms and teachers out there who dedicate their lives to the little-bittles and to my special son, Z-man, who can't wait to share his knowledge of bugs with anyone who will listen!

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Please note that I am not a biologist or entomologist. The bug fun facts and where to look suggestions are based on knowledge that I've gained as I help my son learn about bugs. Facts and locations may or may not pertain to all related bug families and species; and may only be relevant to the types of bugs found in our region of the United States.

And please remember that bugs are an integral part of our ecosystems – Z-man and I beg you not to kill bugs unnecessarily. Please remember that many bugs can cause painful bites, even if they are not poisonous. Please treat them with respect and see a physician should you suspect you have been bitten and it isn't healing.