

My Bug Book

By Marta Wood



Cottonwood Leaf Beetle



The cottonwood beetle is about the size of a fingernail. They are brightly colored to let predators know they don't taste good! Cottonwood beetles eat the leaves of the cottonwood tree.



Black Ground Beetle



Most big black beetles are called black ground beetles or darkling beetles. There are a lot of different types. This one has large pinchers on his head. They eat decaying plant matter and sometimes live plants.

Bordered Patch Butterfly



Butterflies are important pollinators to many different flowering plants. The caterpillar of this butterfly eats sunflowers, ragweed, and other plants.

Weevil



Weevils, or snout beetles, are the largest family of beetles in the world. They eat plants and can be very damaging to crops. The mouth (mandibles) is located on the end of the snout.

Green Bird Grasshopper



Grasshoppers use their large hind legs for jumping. Some, like the green bird grasshopper, have wings for short flights. Grasshoppers eat leafy plants and are often found near rivers, ditches, and shrubs in the front yard!

Southwestern Fig Beetle



The shiny, green wing covers of the southwestern fig beetle make it easy to spot. The adults eat ripe or decaying fruit and fly with a noisy buzz. This beetle is about 1 inch in length.



House Fly



One of the most common insects, the house fly, uses humans for survival. They are active during the day and rest at night. House flies eat food that has been softened by saliva (the liquid in our mouths) – this is why they are always buzzing around your food! Flies can carry diseases.

Unknown Jumping Spider



This hairy little spider is in the jumping spider family. This means he hunts his prey instead of building a web. Spiders are not insects: insects have 6 legs, but spiders have 8 legs.

Desert Millipede



The desert millipede has many legs and spends most of its time underground feeding on decaying plants. Millipedes are not dangerous.

Milli = 1,000

Ped = feet

12 Spotted Cucumber Leaf Beetle



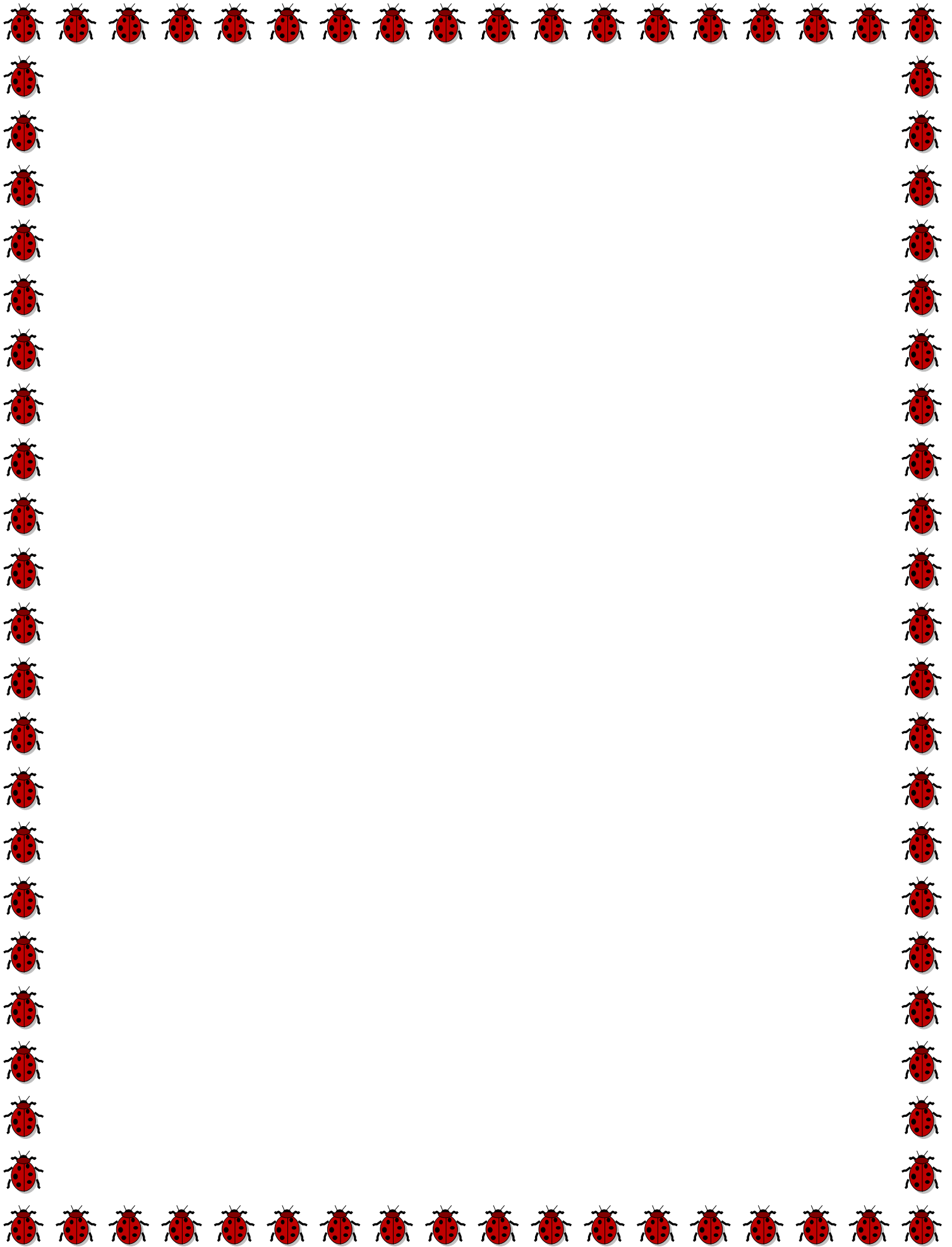
The 12 spotted cucumber beetle is a small, yellow-green insect with 12 black spots. It eats plants of all kinds: flowers, leaves, and fruit.



Silverfish



Silverfish like cool, damp habitats with plant litter to eat. They can be found under leaf litter in yards. And sometimes in bathrooms, kitchens, basements, or attics!





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 my portion of this bug book to all the amazing moms and teachers out there who dedicate their lives to the ittle-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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And please remember that bugs are an integral part of our ecosystems – Z-man and I beg you not to kill bugs unnecessarily. Proof Books are a sufficient and amazing collection. Also, 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.