

What's Buzzin' in Your Backyard?

Each spring, people around Missoula and across Montana send pictures of cool bugs they have found to our team at the Missoula Butterfly House & Insectarium. Each week, we identify them and share fun facts about them in a report called *What's Buzzin'*. We hope you enjoy these activities that have been inspired by *What's Buzzin'* and get a chance to get out and search for bugs of your very own!

Match Those Bugs! Read the descriptions on the left and look at the pictures on the right. Can you tell which description belongs with which picture? Draw a line between the description and the picture to connect the right ones. Then, flip over this page to learn how to find bugs like these in your own backyard!

A

I survive the winter with help from special "antifreeze" chemicals in my body. This means I'm one of the first butterflies you'll spot flying around in the spring. My wings are dark brown, with bright blue shimmering spots along the inner edge of a yellowish-brown border. I am also the state insect of Montana!

B

I am a big, flying insect queen, covered in thick fuzz, with black, yellow and orange bands. I hibernated under dead leaves during the winter and am also one of the earliest insects you'll see flying in the spring. When I fly near you, you might hear a low, loud buzz from my beating wings.

C

I am fuzzy and fly from flower to flower to gather sweet nectar and protein-rich pollen for my hive. I have special baskets on my back legs to put the pollen in. I am not native to the United States, but I provide honey and help other plants make fruit and seeds.

D

I am yellow or white and have eight legs and eight eyes. Many think I look like a miniature crab. My two front pairs of legs are extra-long and I hold them out to either side. You might find me hunting on flowers that match my body color. I sit and wait for a bee, fly, or other pollinator to catch and eat.

European Honey Bee

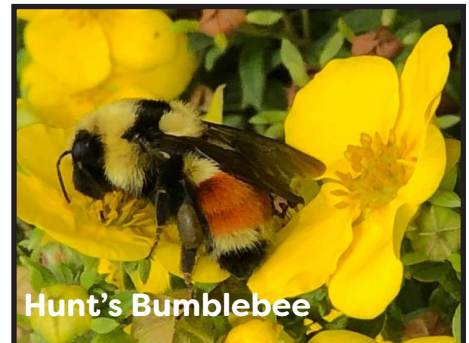


1



Goldenrod crab spider

2



Hunt's Bumblebee

3



Mourning Cloak Butterfly

4

An answer key is on the flip side of this paper. Use the blue letters and numbers to see how you did!

What's Buzzin' Nature Journal

Studying bugs in your own backyard.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Location: _____

Weather: Warm Hot Cool Cold Sunny Cloudy Windy Rainy
Circle all of today's weather conditions.

Where to Look for Bugs: All of the bugs featured in this activity spend a lot of time gathering food from or near flowers. Pick a spot that has plenty of sunshine and some flowers. Sit nice and still next to these flowers for a few minutes and see what kind of bugs come to visit.

Draw the bug you've spotted:

Describe the bug you spotted:

Take a photo of your nature journal page and email it to info@missoulabutterflyhouse.org. We might include it in a future What's Buzzin' report! To get the What's Buzzin' report each week, sign up for our email newsletter at www.missoulabutterflyhouse.org.

Matching Game Answer Key: A = 4, B = 3, C = 1, and D = 2.