

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!

Flip over some rocks around your house and you may see a few of my kind hiding! During the day, I like to stay in a dark, moist place. At night, I like to eat fresh and decaying plants, even dead animal remains. I'm not actually an insect but I am related to them, I'm a crustacean! Did you know I have 14 legs?

A

I am a big, shiny, black beetle that cannot fly. I have purple on my middle body part that shimmers and shines in the sun. I come out at night to hunt animals in your yard and garden that you might consider pests. Slugs are my favorite. You might spot me on a sidewalk or bare patch of soil, scurrying along.

B

I am a long, flattened, reddish brown insect that rarely flies. I have pincers on the back end of my body but I don't use these pincers to hurt humans. I use them to defend myself, to capture prey, and during courtship. I'm great to have in your garden, I love to eat aphids!

C

I am part of the clean-up crew and eat decomposing plant material. My poop is packed with recycled nutrients, which helps new plants grow! I am slow-moving and have a rounded body. I have a lot of legs, 4 per body segment! I like to burrow in the soil and when I feel threatened I will curl into a tight spiral.

D



1



2



3



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 under rocks, leaves and logs. Find some good-sized rocks in your yard or a nearby park. Wet leaves and logs will work well too. Roll them over and see what you find! Don't forget to gently roll everything back when you're done.

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 = 3, B = 1, C = 4, and D = 2.