

What's Buzzin' in Your Backyard?

Starting 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 can skate across the water's surface and even rest on it. But how do I avoid sinking? I use the high surface tension of water to my advantage! My long, slender, water repellent legs help me to distribute my weight. I use my short front legs for catching prey, my middle legs to row and my back ones to steer.

B

I am a swift, eight-legged predator with excellent eyesight and camouflage. My mottled gray, brown, or nearly white colors help me blend into my sandy surroundings on beaches and riverbanks. During the day you might find me hiding under debris or in a burrow. At night, a flashlight lights up my eight eyes!

C

I spent most of my life hunting under the water. Now that I am an adult I am a powerful flier and catch my meals in the air. Small flying insects like mosquitoes are my favorite! If you were to count the black spots on my four wings they would add up to twelve.

D

I am a brown, flat bug that can be up to three inches long. I am commonly called a "toe biter" because I can give a painful poke if threatened. I capture other insects, small fish, frogs, and even snakes to eat with my buff front legs. Besides rowing quickly underwater, I can also fly and am attracted to lights.



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: The bugs featured in this activity all spend time, or even part of their lives, in or around water. Find a safe spot to sit near a river or creek and take a look around. Are there any bugs darting on the water's surface or along the bank? Remember to be safe and only go near water with an adult.

Draw the bug you 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 = 4, C = 2, and D = 1.