

# 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 am yellow, with a black stripe on my back and black spots on the sides of my body. I may look like a caterpillar, but I am not! I am a type of insect closely related to wasps, bees, and ants and will fly in my adult stage. I love to eat leaves from trees. When eating I wrap my back end around a twig to hang on.

**B** You can find me in patches of a native plant called Showy Milkweed. I am a red beetle with black spots and long antennae. My pattern isn't just beautiful, it's also a warning! I taste awful to potential predators thanks to all the toxic milkweed I eat! As a larva I fed on the roots. I now eat leaves, flowers.

**C** You might find me and many others of my kind swarming on sunny fall afternoons. We kind of look like snow falling! We are tiny, and if not for our white, cottony wax wisps, you might not notice us at all! This wax helps to protect us from predators and keeps us from drying out!

**D** I am the only predator on this week's report! I like to hunt around open, shallow ponds and marshes and grab live insects out of the air to eat. My two large eyes cover my head like a helmet and allow me to see in almost every direction at the same time. My wings are clear, lightweight, sturdy and flexible.



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.*

**Looking for Fall Bugs:** There's still plenty of time to look for bugs. For some species, or kinds, of bugs it's their time to shine! Whether you are visiting a woodland, a local pond, a native plant garden, or just walking through your neighborhood, keep your eyes peeled for the fall favorites we shared this week.

Draw a bug you spotted:

Describe a bug you spotted:

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*Take a photo of your nature journal page and email it to [info@missoulabutterflyhouse.org](mailto: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](http://www.missoulabutterflyhouse.org).*

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