

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 am a small, wedge-shaped insect. Most of my kind are only about the size of a grain of rice. Some of us blend in with our surroundings, while others are brightly colored. If you frighten me I can quickly jump away. I suck up plant sap and you can find us in nearly every habitat, including grasslands.



B I am a delicate, pale-green insect with dark eyes, long thread-like antennae and lacy, see-through wings. When I was younger I was a great aphid hunter. Now that I am an adult I have wings and can flutter slowly by. I am active at night or near dusk and dawn. If you handle me I can give off a stinky smell.



C I am a large insect with big and powerful back legs that I use to jump. I get the first part of my name from two pale-yellow stripes that run along the top of my body from my eyes to the tips of my wings. I eat a wide variety of food, including plants and dead animals.



D I have eight legs and eight eyes. I spend most of my time on grasses, leaves, stems, and stalks. I blend in almost perfectly with them thanks to my flattened and striped body. I often stretch out my long, thin legs to help further my camouflage. When prey comes near I launch a surprise attack.



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 can be found on tall grasses and in meadows. If you have a net, drag it along the tops of the grasses and see what falls in. If you don't have a net, sit nice and still in the grass and watch for movement. We bet you'll be surprised by just how many bugs you find!

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