

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

With my bright yellow colors and four inch wingspan, I can be easy to spot! You'll probably also spot my "tails." Scientists think they're meant to mimic antennae and distract predators so they don't chomp down on more important body parts. Look for me in June + July in woodlands and open areas.

B

I have a slender body, two wings, and six stilt-like legs. If a predator latches onto a leg I can shed it to escape. Many think I am a giant mosquito, but I am not. I do not bite or suck blood. As an adult I only live 10 to 15 days and am focused on finding a mate and laying eggs. I tend to wobble when I fly.

C

I am an acrobat of the sky and one of nature's most accomplished predators. I 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 lightweight, sturdy and flexible.

D

I am brownish red and have eye-catching black polka-dots. I have very special wings and am many people's favorite bug. I have a hardened pair of forewings that cover and protect my delicate pair of hindwings. When I want to fly I lift the hardened pair and unfold my origami-like delicate pair.



Crane Fly

1



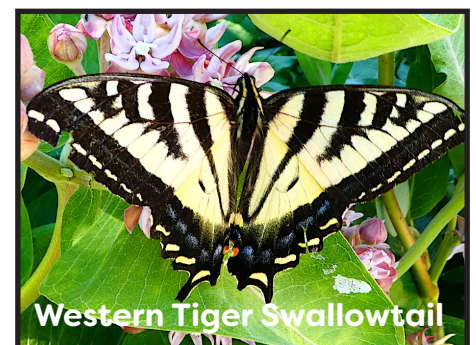
Crimson-ringed Whiteface Dragonfly

2



Eye-spotted Lady Beetle

3



Western Tiger Swallowtail

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 can be found in the air above and around our heads! Sit nice and still in a park or in your yard and look up. Do you see anything zooming, gliding or wobbling through the air?

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