

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 Bug Signs! 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 bug signs like these in your own backyard!

A

I am not an insect, but I am an insect's outer skeleton that was shed! My owner spent more than a year of their life in a river feeding and growing. When they were ready to become an adult they crawled out of the water, split their exoskeleton down the back, and emerged as a winged adult.

B

You can't see the bug inside me, but you might see me: the foamy mass of bubbles. Some think I look like a big glob of spit stuck to a plant. While the bug who created me sucks up plant sap to eat, the foam tastes bad and helps my bug hide from predators and parasites and prevents them from drying up.

C

We are tan colored egg cases. A praying mantis constructed us in late summer on a twig. She laid her eggs in a mass and released a soft foam over them. The foam hardened and protects the developing eggs. If we have a mild winter, the babies will hatch in spring.

D

Our insect inhabitants dug us. We are sand pits grouped together and each about an inch across, in very fine, dry soil at the base of a ponderosa tree. When an ant or other insect slips down our loose sand they slide into the jaws of the antlion hiding inside us.



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: Sometimes when you're out hunting for bugs you'll come across signs that a bug has been there instead of the actual bug itself! Can you find evidence of a bug in your yard or a nearby park?

Draw the bug signs you spotted:

Describe the bug signs 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 = 1, and D = 2.