

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 One look at my stripes and it's easy to see how I got my name! I like to fly at dusk and am attracted to outdoor lights. If disturbed, I can make a hissing sound. I am a male and my reddish brown antennae bend, like an elbow. The tips can fan out and appear feathery. I use them to find females to mate with.

B I am a black and orange beetle. I have an amazing ability to locate fresh carrion (dead animals) from long distances. But I don't eat it for myself! Working with my mate, we move the dead animal into an underground burrow. Next the female will lay eggs near the carrion so we can feed it to our babies! Tasty!

C I am a common, brightly colored beetle with black spots. Did you know that you can't tell my age by the number of spots I have? That will just tell you what kind I am. I spend the winter hibernating in a group of thousands and emerge to start the next generation in spring.

D I am a shiny, black male beetle with a long abdomen and really long antennae. I use my antennae to find my way and also to smell the special chemicals (called pheromones) that females send out when it's time to reproduce. Females have shorter antennae and different spot patterns.



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 Beetles: At 350,000 known species, or types, you are bound to find a beetle nearby! You can find them most everywhere because they do a lot of big jobs in our world. Decomposer beetles clean up rotting wood, decaying animals, poop, and more. Herbivorous beetles attack weeds and stimulate new plant growth. Predator beetles eat pests and pollinating beetles help create new flowers.

Draw the beetle you spotted:

Describe the beetle 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 = 2, B = 1, C = 4, and D = 3.