

Parent Information

(Get To Know Your Neighbourhood Week 3)



This week your child will be searching for clues and trying to find where creatures hide. Creatures can range from tiny ants, timid rabbits, or large raccoons.

Parent role:

Provide clear expectations: Let your child know where they can play independently and your expectations.

Read for non-readers: Children still learning to read will need your help with reading instructions, but should be able to complete the activities independently.

Child role:

Children have 3 challenges to inspire them. This week they are challenged to:

Explore: use scavenger hunts and build a pitfall trap to discover creature hiding in their neighbourhood

Create: make a bug hotel or toad house

Notice: use senses other than sight to notice things that happen in their neighbourhood.

We hope your child will have fun and that you will be encouraged as they step out and explore independently. If you have questions or feedback please contact us via email or facebook messenger. We would love to hear from you!

Tandy, Lotus, and Lorenoa

Where do creatures hide in my neighbourhood (Week 3)

This week you need to be a detective. Look for clues? Can you find out where creatures hide in your **Neighbourhood!**

Use your journal to draw and write about your discoveries.

Remember before you explore always **check with an adult**, tell them where you are going, and when you will be back.

We hope you have fun exploring!

Tandy, Lotus, & Lorena

Challenge 1: Explore

Can you find clues about the creatures who hide in your backyard?

Where do they live? What do they eat?

Use the scavenger hunts and a pitfall trap to find more clues.

Challenge 2: Create

A Bug Hotel



OR



Make a toad house.

Supplies:

- Magnifying glass
- Bug inspecting container
- Scavenger hunts
- Minibeast identification key

You need to find:

- Small rocks, sticks, pinecones, grasses
- Clean recycled bottle OR chipped/broken flower pot
- Clean yogurt cup

Challenge 3: Notice

Sit in your special spot and close your eyes.

What do you hear?

What do you smell?

What can you feel?

What did you notice when you closed your eyes?

CREATE A PITFALL TRAP

Use a pitfall trap to catch minibeasts that run along the ground and look at them closely with a magnifying glass.

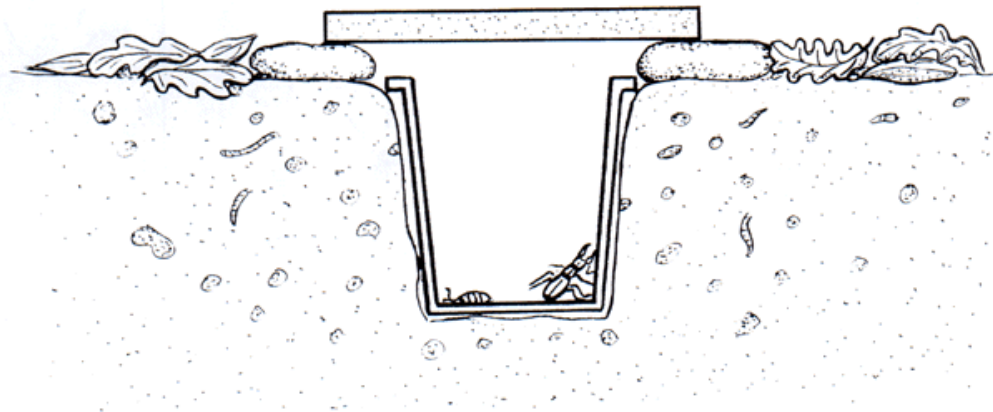
WHAT YOU NEED

- A clean yogurt cup or similar container
- Magnifying glass
- Some small stones or rocks
- A larger stone or flat piece of bark/wood

WHAT TO DO

1. Dig a small hole and bury the cup right up to the rim
2. Use the small stones to hold the big stone/bark/wood slightly above the cup to protect it from rain.
3. Leave the cup overnight.
4. Check your cup in the morning and examine the minibeasts with your magnifying glass
5. Return your minibeasts to their habitat and fill in the hole

You can entice critters into your cup by adding a small piece of cheese or meat to the bottom.

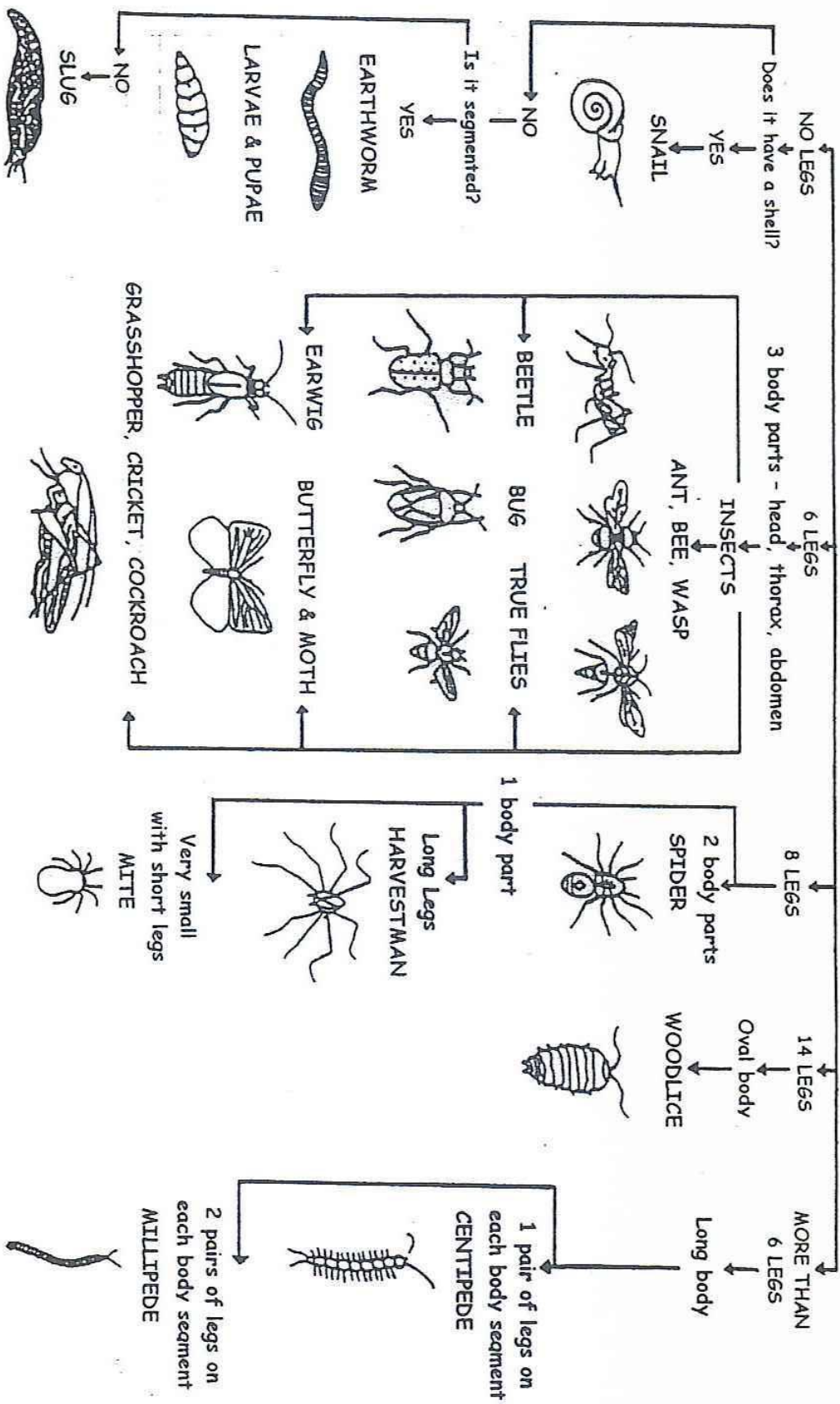


Picture and idea from <https://ypte.org.uk/factsheets/minibeasts/print>
















MINIBEAST KEY

How many legs does your MINIBEAST have?



Find this chart and many fun science ideas at <https://spscience.wordpress.com/2015/02/14/half-term-challenge/>

Frogs and Toads

 <p>American toad</p>	 <p>Northern cricket frog</p>
 <p>Boreal chorus frog</p>	 <p>Bullfrog</p>
 <p>Fowler's toad</p>	 <p>Gray treefrog</p>
 <p>Green frog</p>	 <p>Leopard frog</p>
 <p>Mink frog</p>	 <p>Pickerel frog</p>
 <p>Western chorus frog</p>	 <p>Spring peeper</p>
 <p>Wood frog</p>	

To learn more about Ontario frogs check out
<http://www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond/frogs.asp>

Minibeast Hunt

Tick the minibeasts that you have found!



spider



woodlouse



slug



butterfly



beetle



wasp



crane fly
(daddy-long-legs)



ladybird



earwig



dragonfly



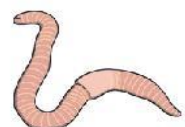
snail



ant



millipede



worm



fly



caterpillar



bee

SIGNS OF ANIMALS SCAVENGER HUNT

Can you find these signs that creatures have been here?



A chewed leaf



Ant hill



Holes burrowed
in a tree/log



Rabbit
scat/poop



Something
we missed



Bird Dropping



Animal track/
footprint



Chewed bark



Animal hole



MAKE A BUG HOTEL

Mini beasts love places with lots of nooks and crannies to crawl into and hide. You can make a bug hotel with found materials to encourage the little critters to visit your neighbourhood.

WHAT TO DO



WHAT YOU NEED



- A clean recycled plastic bottle or other recycled container
- Lots of sticks, stones, pine cones, grasses and other found natural materials

1. Cut the ends off your bottle (you might need adult help) or cut a large hole in your container
2. Use your sticks, stones, pine cones and other materials to fill your bug hotel.
3. Make sure there are lots of nooks and crannies for your minibeasts to hide in.
4. Put your hotel in a shady spot and check on it throughout the week.
5. Who moved in?



Old fallen logs, leaves, and sticks are nature's bug hotel. Next time you take a walk see if you can spot any of these natural hotels.

Check out these bug hotels



RedTedArt.com



thebutterflymother.com

MAKE A TOAD HOUSE

Toads like cool, moist places. You can make them a "house" that they will want to use during hot, dry weather.

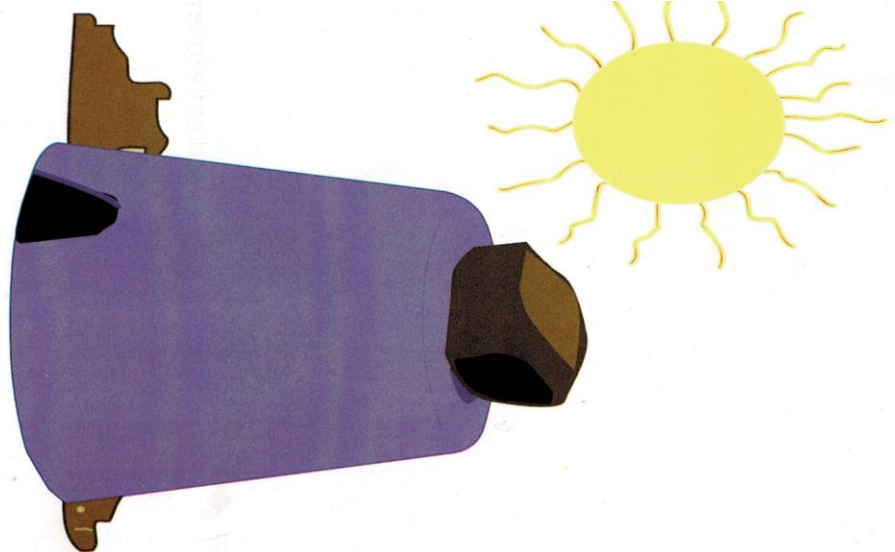
Your toad house is now ready for its special guest!

WHAT YOU NEED

- A sheet of newspaper
- A chipped or cracked plastic flowerpot
- A pair of heavy scissors
- A permanent marker
- A fist-sized rock

WHAT TO DO

- 1 Spread the newspaper over your work area.
- 2 Using the marker, draw a doorway at the open edge of the flowerpot about the size of a silver dollar.
- 3 Using the scissors, cut carefully along the marked line. You may need an adult's help.
- 4 Take both the flowerpot and the rock outside. Put the flowerpot upside-down in a cool, shady area where it won't be bothered.
- 5 Pile loose dirt around the pot, but not across the doorway.
- 6 Put the rock on the flowerpot to help to hold it down all year long.



something to do



This idea and many other fun facts and activities can be found in "Fun with Nature Take-along guide" by Mel Boring, Diane L. Burns, and Leslie Dendy