



### SMALL CRAWLING AND FLYING ANIMALS

*Observations, Records, and Drawings*

*Name:*

*Date:*

### BUG HUNTER CHALLENGE FOR STUDENTS WITH A BACKYARD

There are many small animals that live all around us – on trees and plants in our backyard, in the soil and dead leaves beneath our feet, and even in our house. **LET'S FIND SOME TO STUDY!**

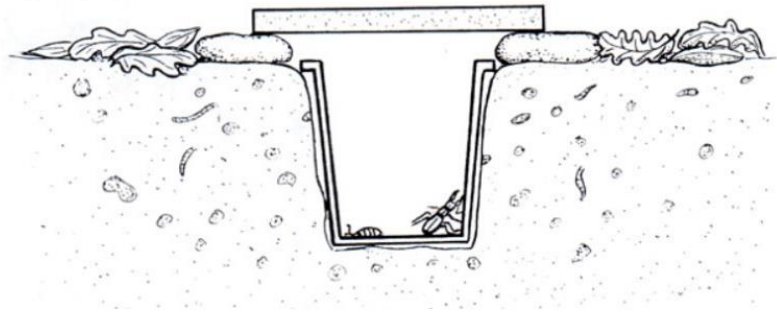
Students with a backyard: take the **BUG HUNTER** challenge to find out what is crawling around outside in the garden using a **PITFALL TRAP**.

#### 1. What you need:

- A container (e.g. an old yoghurt or margarine carton). It shouldn't be too big – about the size of a mug.
- A piece of cling film or clear plastic
- Something to dig a small hole with (e.g. a garden trowel or kitchen spoon)
- A roof to cover your hole with (e.g. a flat rock or bit of wood)
- Some small rocks or bark chips or twigs

#### 2. Make the trap:

- Find a place in your yard – somewhere shady under plants is ideal. Make sure it's nowhere someone is going to step.
- Dig a hole a little bit bigger and deeper than your container.
- Put the container in the hole and fill in dirt around it. Make the edge of the container flush with the soil and camouflage the edge of the container with some leaves.
- Put 4 stones (or bark chips or something) around the container and put the roof carefully on top so there is a gap between it and the ground. The roof will stop the container filling with water if it rains – and prevent the insects drowning!



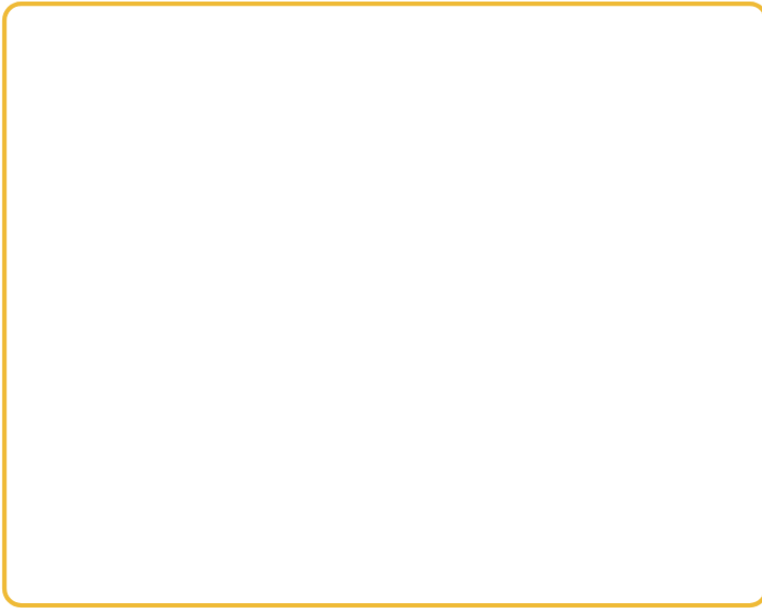
#### 3. Capture some bugs:

- Leave your trap overnight and check every morning to see if anything has fallen in. It may be a few days before you trap anything, so be patient.
- When you find something in your trap lift out the container and stretch a piece of cling film over the top while you study your captive. Make a few small holes in the cling film if you are going to be longer than a few minutes so the animal can breathe.
- When you are finished with your trap don't forget to take the container away and fill in the hole so no more small animals fall in.

#### 4. Observe your captives

- What kind of animal is this? (e.g. a beetle, spider, ant, centipede, etc.)
- How many legs does it have?
- What happens when you put a leaf in the container? Does it hide under it? Does it eat it?
- What else do you notice?
- When you have finished looking take the cling film off the container and gently tip the small animal onto a soft spot under a plant where it will be safe from predators and can relax for a while.

#### 5. Make a drawing of two of the small animals you capture.



**Send me a photo of your Pitfall Trap to claim your BUG TRAPPER BADGE**

Email to [educationtheweaselhead.com](mailto:educationtheweaselhead.com) or mail to WGPPS, PO Box 36032, Calgary T3E 7C6



**THANKS FOR  
COMPLETING  
THE WEASELHEAD  
AT HOME  
FIELD TRIP**

