

Fun Bug Facts!



- Bugs are invertebrates, which means they are animals without a spine.
- Bugs make up about 97% of the creatures living on Earth.
- There are bugs that existed 550 million years ago!
- Bugs* can have no legs (like worms and slugs), six legs (like ants and beetles), or more than six legs (like spiders and millipedes).
- Bugs make their homes in lots of places, both inside our homes and outside under logs, stones or leaves, in ponds, in trees, in grasslands, and in soil.
- Many bugs have very good camouflage, so that they can hide from predators or creep up on prey. Other bugs, like the monarch butterfly, have bright colors to warn predators that they are either poisonous or might taste disgusting.
- Many bugs have long “feelers” called antennae that help them sense the world around them.
- Bugs help the world go round! Some bugs recycle dead matter and waste products (decomposers), and others help plants reproduce (pollinators). Bugs are also an important food source for many living things, from plants like Venus Fly Traps to humans!

*“True bugs” only include insects in the Order *Hymenoptera*, however many people use the term “bug” to refer to any animal in the Phylum *Arthropoda*, which includes the Classes: *Insecta*, *Arachnida*, *Chilopoda*, and *Diplopoda*.

How Can You Help?

Friend to Bugs



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Many people see bugs as scary, gross, or pests, but bugs are crucial for a healthy ecosystem! They pollinate our flowers, recycle dead plant matter, and are food to many animals. Here are some tips to become a friend to the bugs:

- Next time you or a family member finds an unwanted bug in your home, place it under a cup, carefully slide a piece of paper under the cup and release the bug outside.
- Let your grass grow taller during the warmer seasons to give bugs more room to hide.
- Turn off lights and close the curtains at night to keep moths and fireflies from accidentally going towards your house.
- Plant native plants in your garden.
- Build a bug hotel for solitary bees and ladybird beetles.
- Leave grass clippings and dead leaves on your lawn for the decomposers.