

nature i-spy



This nature i-spy activity is a fun activity to do outside, either in your own garden or further afield.

As part of this activity, you'll find a range of insects that are great additions to your garden / nature. You can use this list to see which ones you can find on your walk.

As you find them, you can find the card that belongs to that bug to find out a bit more about them and why they're good to have around.

Take the time to really look closely around you wherever you do this activity. There is a whole small world going on within nature that we often don't notice everyday.

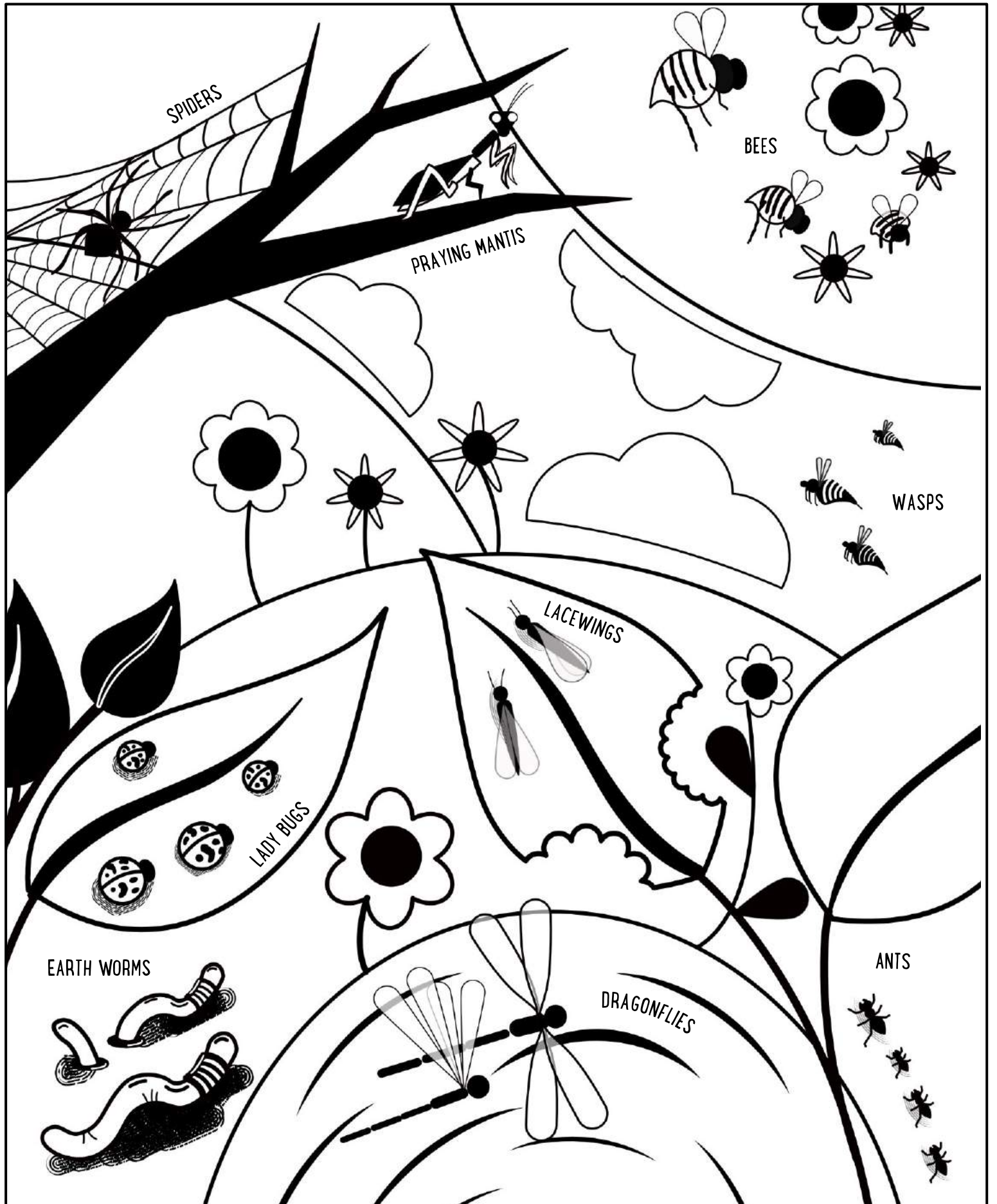
tips

You can use the colourful pieces as a jigsaw puzzle, placing the pieces on the page as you find them.

Do more research if you'd like to find out more information on how to attract these bugs into your backyard.



When printing this activity, consider using the reverse side of paper you've already used such as bills or junk mail.



● WASPS
● SPIDER

● LADY BUG
● EARTH WORM

● DRAGON FLY
● LACEWING

● BEE
● PRAYING MANTIS

SPIDERS

Leaving spider webs in your garden is a good way to keep insect populations at a nice level. They catch and eat a lot of flying insects including mosquitoes and flies!

PRAYING MANTIS

Praying Mantis are commonly found on plants, and love eating other small bugs. Caterpillars, beetle larvae, ants, small spiders, small butterflies and moths, aphids and mealy bugs are their favorites. As all of these love eating the leaves of plants, Praying Mantis are a good way to keep plants happy.

BEES

Bees are the best pollinators we have on Earth. They are responsible for most of the fruit and vegetables we eat. They are actually essential to human survival! Attracting them with flowers is a great way to keep them around.

LADYBUGS

Young ladybugs are big feeders of destructive insects. Ladybugs also like to eat some fungi and mildew. Having them in the garden is a good natural pesticide. Nectar-producing flowers attract the adults into the garden.

LACEWINGS

Lacewing larvae feed on a wide variety of insects that are destructive to plant life such as aphids during the day. The adults are nocturnal and hunt for insects at night. During the day they rest underneath leaves.

WASPS

Many species of wasps are a good addition to the garden. They are always hunting for soft bodied insects to feed to their young. Some even lay eggs inside these bodies, and the young wasps will eat their way out when they hatch!

EARTH WORMS

Worms are an important part of good soil. They help to break down organic matter into healthy soil and also help to aerate the ground, making a great environment for tree roots to grow.

DRAGON FLIES

Dragonflies are one of the biggest predators for most pests in your garden, including mosquitoes! This makes them a great insect to have around. Their larvae's main food source is mosquito larvae. The adult dragonflies also eat a range of flying insects mid-air.

ANTS

Not all ants are beneficial, but in general, ants can be a great addition to any natural environment. Ants love eating nectar and therefore are great pollinators. They are also great at disposing of things that have died (an important part of the natural process). Small dead animals and bits of dead plant matter are part of ants' diets. Their tunnels in the ground are also beneficial to the soil, loosening it up to create a good growing environment.



references and further reading

- [Information sourced from the article by Noel Burdette “Guardians of the Garden: Beneficial Predatory Backyard Insects” on About the Garden blog.](#)
- [Information sourced from the article by Nan Schiller “Beneficial Insects and Other Creepy Crawlies that Your Garden Will Love” on Gardener’s Path blog.](#)
- [Information sourced from the article by Danielle McLeod “Beneficial Insects and How They Support Your Garden” on Backyard Boss blog.](#)
- [Information sourced from the article by Family Garden Life “The Top 6 Beneficial Insects in an Australian Garden” on Family Garden Life blog.](#)
- [Information sourced from the article by Bonnie L. Grant “Earthworms In Soil: Learn About The Benefits Of Garden Worms” on Gardening Know How blog.](#)