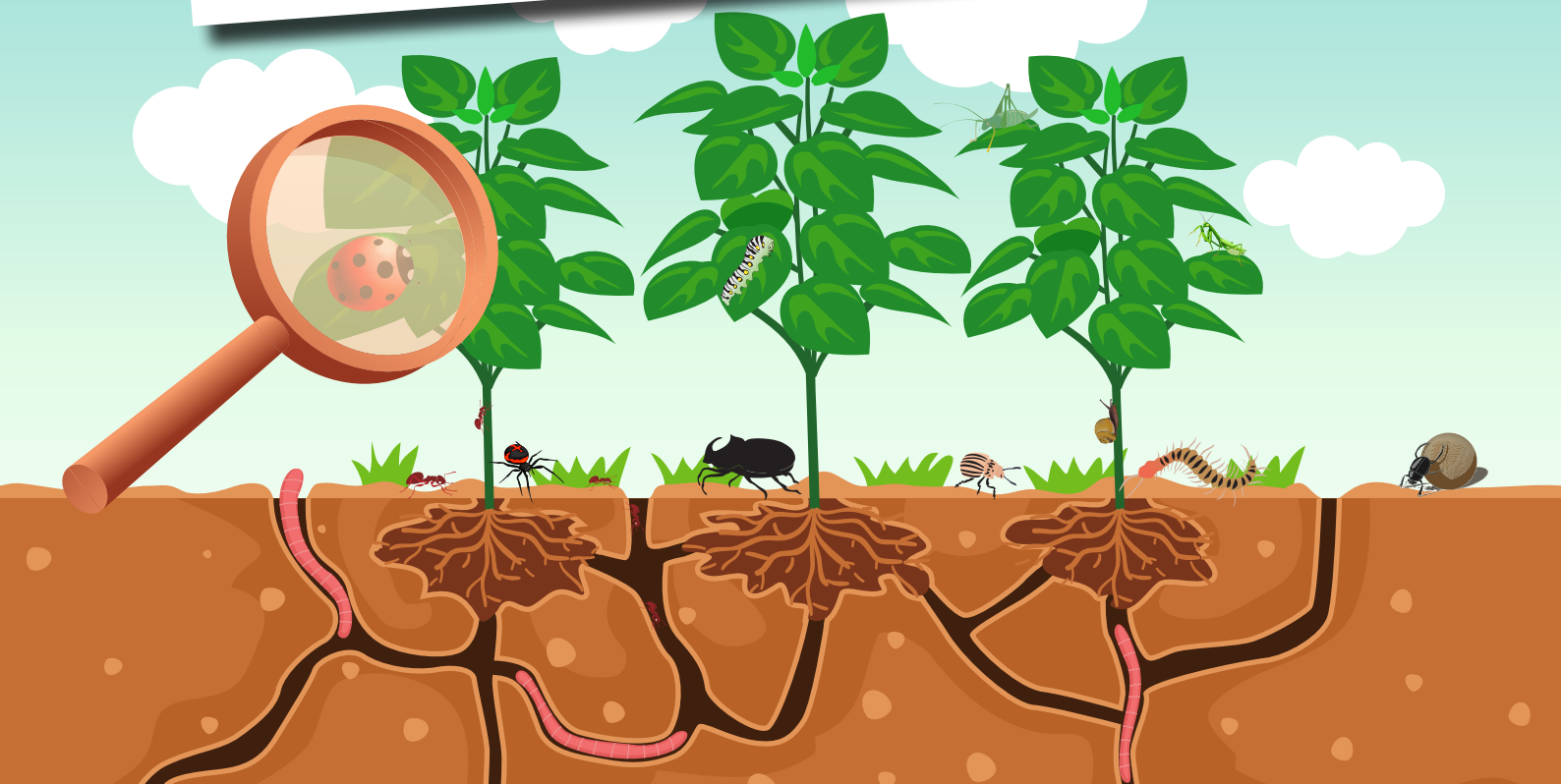


WHAT'S MOVING ABOUT?

# Creepy Crawlies



## What's that crawling around in the garden?

Sometimes we only realise how full of life our backyard is when we take a closer look at the little things. As well as plants, birds and mammals, we share our places with a huge number of tiny creepy crawlies, known as invertebrates.

**Invertebrates are animals that do not have a backbone.** They often have a hard skin or shell around their bodies to protect them. Invertebrates we might find in the backyard includes things like spiders and insects.

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## YUK! BUT I DON'T LIKE INSECTS AND SPIDERS!

Before you judge them all, you should know that we have both good and bad creepy crawlies in our backyards.

Bad invertebrates are pests that cause problems for our plants, soils and buildings. Good invertebrates are beneficial and perform important functions such as:

- **Pest control** – eat pest insects like aphids and mites that harm our plants and soil.
- **Recycling** – break-down plant and animal material so the nutrients can be used by plants.
- **Pollination** – essential to plants reproduction and producing fruits.

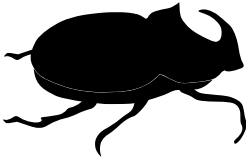
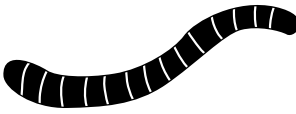
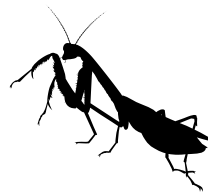
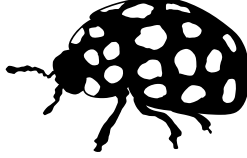
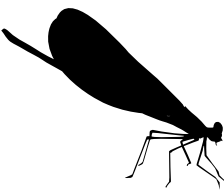


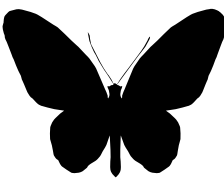

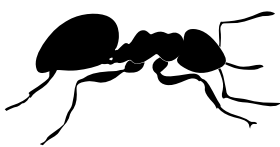
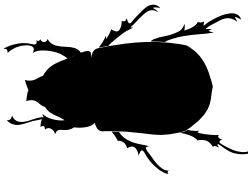
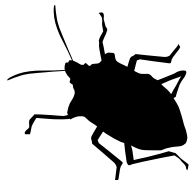



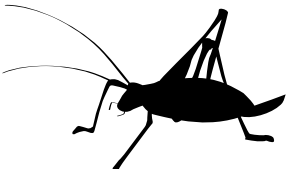
# Creepy Crawlies

## BACKYARD BUG BINGO

Here are some of our creepy crawly heroes that you might find in your backyard. They work tirelessly for us controlling pests, recycling nutrients and pollinating flowers.

Head out into your backyard and see how many of these heroes you can find. Colour-in each square as you find them. See if you can get BINGO by getting four in a row.

**WARNING: Do not touch or harm your backyard heroes. Observe only!**

 <p><b>RHINO BEETLE</b> Helps break down organic mulch for plants to use.</p>	 <p><b>EARTHWORM</b> Helps break down organic material for plants to use.</p>	 <p><b>PRAYING MANTIS</b> Feed on pests, like aphids, flies and beetles.</p>	 <p><b>LADY BEETLE</b> Feed on pests, like aphids, whiteflies, and mites.</p>
 <p><b>GREEN LACEWINGS</b> Larvae feed on pests, like spider mites and thrips.</p>	 <p><b>HOVER FLY</b> Pollinate flowers. Larvae eat aphids and mites.</p>	 <p><b>SPIDERS</b> Feed on pests, like aphids, beetles and leaf hoppers.</p>	 <p><b>BUTTERFLY</b> Pollinate flowers in the garden and in bushland.</p>
 <p><b>PARASITIC WASPS</b> Lay eggs inside aphids, caterpillars and flies.</p>	 <p><b>ANTS</b> Feed on pests, like moth eggs and small caterpillars.</p>	 <p><b>DUNG BEETLE</b> Feed on other animals faeces.</p>	 <p><b>SHIELD/STINK BUGS</b> Feed on pests, like caterpillars.</p>
 <p><b>BEES</b> Pollinate flowers in the garden and in bushland.</p>	 <p><b>DRAGONFLY</b> Feed on flying pests, like moths and mosquitoes.</p>	 <p><b>NATIVE COCKROACH</b> Feed in trees on pollen, bark and leaf material.</p>	 <p><b>KATYDID</b> Pollinates some flowers. Feeds on insects.</p>

# Creepy Crawlies

## ULTIMATE CREEPY CRAWLY

When you look at the creepy crawlies (invertebrates) living in your backyard, one of the first things you notice is how they are all different to each other.

Insects and spiders have a whole range of shapes, sizes, limbs, antennas, stings, pincers and other features to help them catch their food, defend themselves and attack others. These are known as 'adaptations'. They have evolved or adapted over time to develop special features that help them survive.

### Design your own Ultimate Creepy Crawly

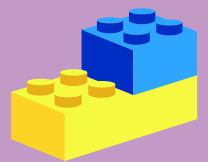
Draw your Ultimate Creepy Crawly in the space below or on a separate sheet.

Special features could be: stings, pincers, claws, legs, disposable limbs, body casing, armour, strength, horns, wings, antenna, sensitive hairs (to detect trouble), eyes, teeth, mandibles, claws, ability to create webs, speed, body segments, venom, poison, size.

Things to think about when designing your Ultimate Creepy Crawly.

1. Where in your backyard does your ultimate creepy crawly live (habitat)?
2. Does it spend most of its time on the ground, in the air or on plants?
3. What does it eat and how does it catch its prey?
4. How is your ultimate creepy crawly good for your backyard environment?

### LEGO MASTERS CHALLENGE!



Use your design to help you make a 3D Lego model of your Ultimate Creepy Crawly.

If you don't have Lego you can also use Play-Doh, silly putty, clay, wood or any craft materials you can find around your house or in your backyard.

Send a photo of your creation to [info@adventuresatyourplace.com.au](mailto:info@adventuresatyourplace.com.au)

