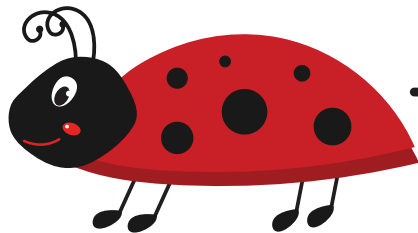
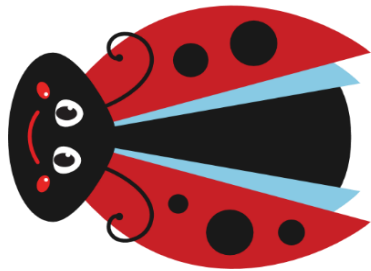


Ladybug Line Tracing

Follow the ladybugs' trails using a pen, pencil, or crayon!





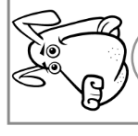
HOW MANY?



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BACKYARD HABITATS: BUG HOTELS, BIRD FEEDERS, AND BUTTERFLY PUDDLERS

Image source: Shutterstock

AGES

Children 6+ years

Teens

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A backyard habitat series for birds and pollinators! This program teaches participants the basics of backyard habitats: Project options include a bug hotel, a bird feeder, and a butterfly puddler. Build one habitat, or run a series to build all three. Modify habitat designs based on audience age and the supplies you have on hand; see Resources for more design ideas. **Suggested runtime:** 90 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION FOR BUG HOTELS

You will need:

- Recycled tin cans or plastic soda bottles
- Sticks, hollow bamboo, or bee tubes
- Leaves or pinecones
- Twine or string
- Something to punch holes in tin or plastic



Slice off the ends of recycled soda bottles, or remove the bottoms from tin cans. These will be used as outer wrappers for the bug hotels. During the program, participants bundle sticks into the cans or plastic bottle rounds.

Punch holes in the plastic, and tie a string for hanging.

TIP:

Include a pollinator gardening component and give participants flower seedlings to take home and plant!

ADAPTATION:

For a fun twist, older children or teens could repurpose old Legos by turning them into bird feeder castles. Seed can be placed in a “moat” around the base.

ADAPTATION:

For younger children, pinecone bird feeders are an easy option. Tutorial here: <https://bit.ly/3dJpqMr>

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION FOR BIRD FEEDERS

You will need:

- Tin cans
- Craft sticks
- Paint and paint brushes
- String or twine
- Birdseed
- Small cups, soil, and flower seeds (optional)

Participants paint the outside of the cans and glue one craft stick for a perch. Punch holes and add string to hang.

MATERIALS AND PREPRATION

FOR BUTTERFLY PUDDLERS

- Pie tins or shallow dishes
- Sponges or flat river rocks
- Water and sugar (9:1 water to sugar ratio) or fresh fruit in water
- String or twine
- Decorative beads

Poke four evenly spaced holes around edge of the pie tin. Thread string through the holes, and add beads to the string for decoration. Tie all four strands together at the top, and add fruit or a sugar water mixture to attract butterflies.



MATERIALS AND PREPARATION FOR BENEFICIAL PERENNIALS

You will need:

- Small cups with holes in the bottom or biodegradable pots
- Perennial seeds native to your area
- Soil (or peat pods for easier cleanup)

IMPORTANT: Even in shallow dishes, butterflies need places to perch to drink the water, so remember the flat rocks or sponges.

SEEDY PERENNIALS TO ATTRACT BIRDS: Alliums, sunflowers, coneflowers, poppies, cosmos, black-eyed Susans, etc.

SYRUPY PERENNIALS TO ATTRACT POLLINATORS: Yarrow, bee balm, butterfly bush, lavender, nasturtiums, sage, hollyhocks, lupine, milkweed, etc.

TIP: Be sure to choose noninvasive perennials for your area.