

# What's Buzzin' in Your Backyard?

Starting each spring, people around Missoula and across Montana send pictures of cool bugs they have found to our team at the Missoula Butterfly House & Insectarium. Each week, we identify them and share fun facts about them in a report called *What's Buzzin'*. We hope you enjoy these activities that have been inspired by *What's Buzzin'* and get a chance to get out and search for bugs of your very own!

**Match Those Bugs!** Read the descriptions on the left and look at the pictures on the right. Can you tell which description belongs with which picture? Draw a line between the description and the picture to connect the right ones. Then, flip over this page to learn how to find bugs like these in your own backyard!

A

I am a fairly large, reddish brown adult insect with long antennae. You might notice an "x"-shaped pattern on my back and a wide and flat section on my back legs. I feed on seeds of trees and shrubs. When it gets colder outside, I may wander inside your house for shelter. Once protected, I won't eat until spring!

B

You can spot fine white lines on the front of my large "golf ball"-like abdomen. My head is tiny in comparison! I construct a beautiful, wheel-shaped web to catch insects. I won't live much longer but I will lay one or more egg sacs, each containing up to several hundred eggs that will hatch in spring.

C

Do you like my wide, long snout? My chewing mouthparts are at the tip! The larvae, or immature stage, of my kind feed on the roots of a harmful weed called knapweed. The feeding kills smaller plants and weakens larger ones. The larvae spend winter resting underground.

D

I have brightly colored bands, two black and one orange. I also have many thin white lashes. Although I am colorful and look soft, you should not touch me! My hair can be irritating. Now that I am full-grown it is time for me to spin a cocoon to wait out the winter in. In spring I will emerge as a moth!



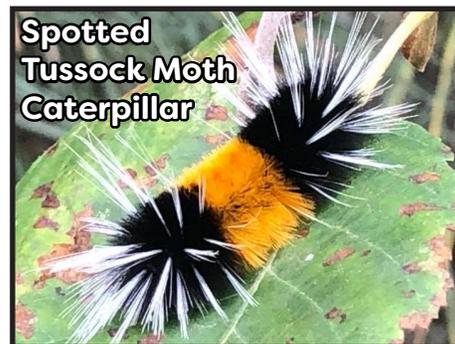
Cat-faced spider

1



Knapweed Root Weevil

2



Spotted Tussock Moth Caterpillar

3



Western Conifer Seed Bug

4

An answer key is on the flip side of this paper. Use the blue letters and numbers to see how you did!

# What's Buzzin' Nature Journal

*Studying bugs in your own backyard.*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: Warm Hot Cool Cold Sunny Cloudy Windy Rainy  
*Circle all of today's weather conditions.*

**Looking for Fall Bugs:** Insects and their relatives have strategies for surviving winter, just like you! Instead of bundling up in layers of clothes or staying cozy in a warm house, they may spin a cocoon or transform into a chrysalis, lay eggs that will overwinter, or find a protected spot to wait out the long winter months. Can you spot any of the bugs we shared this week preparing for winter?

Draw a bug you spotted:

Describe a bug you spotted:

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*Take a photo of your nature journal page and email it to [info@missoulabutterflyhouse.org](mailto:info@missoulabutterflyhouse.org). We might include it in a future What's Buzzin' report! To get the What's Buzzin' report each week, sign up for our email newsletter at [www.missoulabutterflyhouse.org](http://www.missoulabutterflyhouse.org).*

**Matching Game Answer Key: A = 4, B = 1, C = 2, and D = 3.**