

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!



1



2



3



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:

Take a photo of your nature journal page and email it to 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.

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