

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 bright yellow butterfly with pink fringes. When I am not flying I perch with my wings closed. You can see my kind flying in forests packed with blueberry plants, including huckleberries. As a caterpillar I loved to eat the leaves of these plants. Now I suck up sweet nectar from flowers with my proboscis.

B

The underside of my back wing is gray with black dots and dashes. I even have some "v" shaped markings too. Can you find them? I have similar, but wider, black markings on my more orange front wing. You can find me flying from mid-July through August in open coniferous forests.

C

I like to show off the topside of my wings which are orange with black markings. I also have beautiful blue-gray eyes. Starting in late summer you can see us flying close to the ground in mountain meadows. I like sipping nectar but sometimes enjoy mud and dung!

D

If you see a flash of blue fly by, it was probably a butterfly from my group, "The Blues!" We are small butterflies that generally have blue on the topside of our wings and pearly gray undersides. We are active fliers and don't like to sit still for very long, though males will congregate at damp sandy areas.



Atlantis Fritillary

1



Mariposa Copper

2



Northern Blue

3



Pink-Edged Sulphur

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.

Where to Look for Butterflies: Butterflies spend a lot of time gathering food from flowers. Many of the ones featured in this activity can also be found in damp, sandy or muddy areas, often along hiking trails. Pick a spot that has some sunshine and flowers or a bit of wet sand or mud. Sit nice and still for a few minutes and see what kinds come to visit.

Draw the butterfly you spotted:

Describe the butterfly 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 = 2, C = 1, and D = 3.