

CATCH THE READING BUGS!



What's in Your Back Yard?

By PAM CARLSON

Crafts

Boo-boo Bugs

Roll the edges of a washcloth from the outer to the middle. Fold the washcloth in half with the folded edges to the outside. Wrap a rubber band around the folded cloth about one third down from the top and another one third down from that. Tie a piece of yarn or ribbon around the bands to hide them. Take three (for the beetle) or four (for the spider) pipe cleaners and twist them in the middle. Thread them through the opening in the middle of the washcloth. Twist them into leg shapes. Glue on googly eyes. For the dung beetle, place a small tootsie roll in the middle opening and cover and with pom-poms. To use for first aid cooling, place a large plastic ice cube in the center opening.

Tape Bracelet

Wrap a piece of tape around your wrist sticky side out. Take a walk around your yard or through the neighborhood looking for souvenirs – leaves, flowers, and so on – to stick on for an instant souvenir. From Lakeshore Learning.

Bleached T-Shirt

Mystery nature t-shirt from www.parentingteens.about.com

You'll need:

- bleach in a spray bottle
- leaves
- dark colored T-shirt
- large bucket of cool water
- newspaper

Put the newspaper in between the layers of the T-shirt. Spread your leaves out on the front of the T-shirt. Be creative! Spray the front of the t-shirt with bleach. Try and spray as evenly as possible, covering both the leaves and the empty areas. Allow the bleach to stay on for about 5 minutes. You'll start to see the color of the shirt fade. Rinse the shirt in the bucket of cool water. Rinse it well to get out the bleach. You're all done!





Spider web plates

Drape various lengths of colored yarn over paper plates. Glue them on when satisfied with the arrangement. Add a cut out spider and some of the bugs/insects the spider has captured.

Ladybug capes

Cut oval shapes from plastic tablecloths to reach almost to the child's waist. Staple the tops together and add ribbon ties. Add black spots for ladybugs or colored stripes and dots for butterflies.

Tissue paper butterflies

Use 6" by 8" pieces of tissue paper. Add small round stickers, sequins, or glitter to decorate. Accordion fold when dry. Twist a chenille wire around the middle and bend the ends to serve as antennae.

Plastic bag butterflies

Place sequins and small buttons in a plastic resealable bag. Twist a chenille wire around the middle and bend the ends to serve as antennae.

Chain of Bugs

Choose a bug or insect pattern and trace it onto a long thin strip of paper folded accordion style. Cut around the pattern making sure to leave the fold intact. When finished, pull the end of the paper and you should have a chain of bugs.

Dragonfly Pencils or Note Holders

Spread glue on a regular (for notes) or mini (for pencils) clothes pin. Spread glue on, add glitter and googly eyes. Twist wings from pipe cleaners and add. Glue to end of pencil or stick. Place in a jar of marbles (for rocks). From *Best Friends Forever* by Laura Torres

Transparent Terrarium

Glue clear glass onto circle of poster board after filling it partway with moss, leaves, and plastic bugs.

Tumblebugs – from *Family Fun* 5/2007

Cut a 5 ½ by ¾ inch strip of card stock and two 1 ¾ by 7/8 inch card stock ovals. Glue the strip into a loop, overlapping the ends by an inch. When dry, use a toothpick (or q-tip) to line one edge of the loop with glue, then set the loop on top of an oval. When dry, place a marble inside. Line the edge of the loop with glue and press the other oval on top. Once the glue is dry, use a marker to add a face and other features. Cut out a couple of 2 inch long wings from tissue paper and glue them to the top of your bug. "Set these little critters on an incline and watch them cartwheel a beeline to the bottom." To create a "raceway", cut a water noodle in half lengthwise. *Family Fun*, July/August, 2007

Zen Rock Garden

Fill a shoebox lid partway with sand. Arrange rocks in it. Use a plastic fork with trimmed tips for the rake. Rocks may come from special places visited (use a permanent marker to label with place and date found).

Family Fun, July/August, 2007

Shaped Baggy Book

Cut two pieces of construction paper in the shape of a bug for a cover. Add a face and antennae as needed. Add white or lined paper between them.

Buggy Rice Jugglers

Need: 2 balloons in contrasting colors

Rice

Stretch the balloons out by blowing them up a bit, then letting the air out. Cut off the necks of the balloons. Fill one balloon with rice and stretch the other balloon over it. Draw on a buggy face. For a ladybug effect, use red and black balloons. Use the black balloon as the inside balloon and cut small holes in the red outer balloon.





Crafts Inspired by Books

Leaf Man – Lois Ehlert

Make leaf collages using real or paper leaves. Or create leaf masks as seen in *Vacation Activity Book* by Jane Bull

The Worm Family - Tony Johnston

Print the worm's chant on poster board and make wormy pompoms. Cut slits in short strips of tissue paper and wrap around balloon sticks, taping around the bottom. Cut out worm shapes from fun foam and decorate with googly eyes, buttons, sequins, etc. **The chant:** "We are worms and we are proud! We are long and we are LOUD!"

The Worms also formed themselves into the words "Oh Joy". Write your own favorite words on a sheet of paper and make them three-dimensional by gluing on small pompoms. Worm string painting – fold a piece of paper in half, then unfold. Dip a piece of string into paint and lay it across the paper. Add other strings and fold the paper to cover them. Press hard with your hand, then open the paper and remove the strings. For a different effect, make sure one end of the string has no paint on it and hangs out the side of the paper. Fold the paper over the string/s and pull while pressing down.

Be Nice to Spiders – Margaret Graham

Cut out a spider shape and glue it to one end of an accordion pleated strip of paper. Glue the other end to the inside of a matchbox or Altoids tin.

Aaaarrgghh! Spider! – Lydia Monks - Bouncy yarn pom-pom spider

Roberto the Insect Architect – Nina Laden – recycled materials to create bug homes, decorate with clip art

Mrs. Morgan's Lawn – Barney Saltzberg

Picture frame from *Jumbo Book of Outdoor Art*. Glue moss around a bowl or plate. glue piece of black construction paper inside. Add feather, flower, whatever, even a small ball.

Berlioz the Bear by Jan Brett – Altoids tin; put bees inside on accordion fold construction paper so they will pop out. On the front "I'm bringing home a baby bumblebee".

I Wish I Were a Butterfly by James Howe – see directions for Berlioz

Slugs in Love – Susan Pearson – write a message in glue, then sprinkle glitter on to create a slimy appearance

Bugs, Bugs, Bugs – *Better Homes and Gardens* - Caterpillar necklace – string circles between pieces of macaroni – draw a face on one circle and chenille stem antennae

Insects Are My Life – Megan McDonald

Wooden spoon bugs – paint with bright bugly colors, add googly eyes, chenille stem antennae, and a magnet on the back.

From the 2008 CSLP-SRP Manual

Chapter 3

Ladybug hats – p. 19

Chapter 4

Caterpillar/butterfly – p. 12, 27

Prehistoric dragonfly – p. 19

Heart butterfly – p. 26

Chapter 5

Giant ant hills – p. 6

Beetle magnet – p. 8, p. 19

Bug visors – p. 9

Chapter 6

Caterpillar ring – p. 5

Martha Moth flannel board story – p. 5, 22

Baggie butterfly – p. 8

Flower petal butterfly magnet – p. 10

Chapter 8

Bugmallows – p. 8

– *Bats at the Beach* – Brian Lies





Wind Chime

Need: fishing string or stretch elastic, clear
Picture of a bug, laminated
Small plastic ring
Small metal ring or lanyard hook
Pony beads
Plastic spoons

Punch holes in the top and bottom in the middle of the bug picture. Tie one length of string or elastic approximately 6 inches in length from the small ring. Add beads if desired. Thread the other end of the through the top hole in the bug and tie. Cut three or four lengths of wire or elastic approximately 14 inches in length. Thread them through the bottom hole in the bug and tie, leaving about 2 inches between the bug and the ring and tie evenly spaced around the ring. Add beads if desired. Be sure to loop the wire or elastic back through them to hold them in place. Tie the ends of each string around the handle of a spoon. Small keys may also be used to make the "chime".

Bug Wrangler Hats

Decorate plastic pith helmets with pictures of bugs.

Birdseed Cookie

Trace shape onto cardboard or poster board. Cut out and punch a hole at the top. Tie a ribbon loop through the hole. Spread shortening over the shape and sprinkle on birdseed. Hang in the backyard.

Pebble/Bean Mosaic

Use a coloring sheet for the basic pattern or draw your own bug or outdoors related design. Use sturdy paper! Glue on pebbles and beans.

"You can learn an awful lot from the flowers!"
- *Alice in Wonderland*

Button flowers – cut a flower shape from construction paper. Punch a hole in the middle of the flower and thread a chenille stem through it, hooking a button onto the end. Glue other buttons onto the flower. (This may be used with the book *Do You Know How Much I Love You?* – Donna Tedesco)

Pressed leaf and flower art from *Jumbo Book of Outdoor Art* – Irene Luxbacher
Place between two sheets of waxed paper and then between two heavy objects for a few days. Remove and arrange on a flat surface. Brush glue on the back. Add other details (with crayon, paint, glitter, sequins, small shells, etc.)

Plastic egg snail shakers

Place a small amount of uncooked rice or beans inside a plastic egg. glue and seal tightly. Curl a chenille stem into a tower for the shell and glue on to the egg. add eyes and antennae.

Other ideas from *Jumbo book of outdoor art* – Irene Luxbacher

Spider's web from twigs and raffia – p. 64, 65

Fountain – pages 90-93

Solar powered prints – p. 100, 101

Lay objects on construction paper. weigh down paper with rocks so won't blow away.
Keep for two or three hours. Add details with chalk.

Fun foam buggy mouse pad – cut shape from fun foam and decorate



Decorating idea – add giant antennas to the bookshelf ends





Games

20,000 Anthill

Based on the old TV game show \$20,000 Pyramid. Play as teams of at least two people. If playing as a team, choose one member to give the clues for each category.

One player chooses a category and describes the things listed category to their teammate or team members. There is a suggested time limit of one minute per category and then the other team may choose a category. If the clue giver accidentally blurts out the answer, the team receives no points for that it. Assign any number of points you want to each correct answer. The team with the highest number of points wins. The usual number of items per list is five.

Sample categories and lists: "Found Underground": worms, roots, potatoes. "Picnic Treats": ants, watermelon, sandwiches. "Take Out the Garbage": flies, plastic bags, food. "Ouch!": bee, band aid, scar. "Flying Wonders": butterfly, jet, seagull.

Catch the Reading Bug

Decorate a small rubber ball to look like a bug and attach a strip of Velcro to it. Place the other part of the Velcro onto a pair of gardening or other type of gloves. Toss the ball bug back and forth, taking a step backward each time. Alternative: toss between large Styrofoam or plastic cups.

Bug Tac Toe

Cut a piece of poster board into a square shape and divide it into 9 squares, drawing the outlines onto the paper. Cut out small circles of two colors of felt and staple or sew around the edges, leaving an opening. Place beans inside and staple or sew the opening shut. Decorate like a ladybug with googly eyes and sequins. Place the poster board on the floor, stand behind a line, and toss the bean bugs onto the squares until someone gets three in a row.

Fly Swatter Bug Bounce

How many times can you bounce a pom-pom bug?

Flyminton

Cut out fun foam target and draw web lines on it with marker. Add pieces of Velcro randomly. Using a fly swatter, hit Velcro ball "bugs" onto the target. Alternative: draw bug faces onto badminton shuttlecocks and use fly swatters to hit them back and forth.

Pass the Caterpillar

Cover a toilet paper tube with green paper. Play like Hot Potato, using creepy-crawly music of your choice.

Millipede Memory Game

Purchase a set of large plastic insects. Arrange them on a tray and allow the audience to observe them for one minute. Cover the tray. Ask the audience to name out loud or write down as many of the insects as they can remember.

52 Ant Pick-up

Purchase a couple of bags of plastic ants. Toss onto the floor and have two or three kids at a time see how many they can pick up in twenty seconds.

Guess The Guest (title from Laura Ingraham)

Try to identify insects using hints gathered from such books as *Bugs and Spiders* – Dee Phillips

Beehive Concentration

Hide duplicate pictures of flowers under beehive shapes – inspired by *Make It Work! Insects* by Liz Wyse, 1993





And It's Tasty, Too!

Bug Cookies

Decorate cookies to look like bugs using frosting, pieces of fruit roll-ups, and small candies.

Gummy Worms and Insects

Snack on from the bag or add to chocolate pudding with crushed cookies on top.

Chocolate Covered Worms

- 1 - 3 ounce can chow mein noodles
- 1 - 8 ounce package chocolate chips
- 1 - 8 ounce package butterscotch chips

Melt chips in pan over low heat, stirring often, or in a double boiler, or microwave for approximately 1 minute. When melted, add in the noodles and stir carefully together. Drop by spoonfuls onto a cookie sheet lined with wax paper and refrigerate for an hour before serving.

Spider Web Cupcakes

Use icing gel to create a spider web on a frosted cupcake.

Grasshopper Gulp

Add green food coloring to Sprite, Sierra Mist, or 7-up. Pour a cup and add a gummy worm or insect for that "special" effect.

Dum-Dum Dragonflies

Tie a sucker to a spoon. Add wings to the stem, add a face, and perhaps antennae.

Crickwing – Janell Cannon

Arrange fruits and vegetables in a food sculpture

Beetle McGrady Eats Bugs – Megan McDonald

If you are using actual insects in your snacks



Flannel Board Stories

Grouchy Ladybug – Eric Carle

Cut out flannel board pieces, punch a hole through each one, and thread a piece of yarn through, tying in a loop big enough to form a large necklace. Hang the pieces around children's necks to act out the story.

I Know An Old Lady

Use a grocery bag to make the old lady. Cut out a square for a stomach and line with plastic, such as from book jackets. Cut out an opening under the overhang for a mouth. Drop plastic bugs in her mouth, identifying them as you do so.

Very Lazy Ladybug – Isobel Finn & Jack Tickle – act out the actions. Make a flying ladybug. Color a picture of a ladybug, tape it onto a piece of string, and wrap it around a straw, adding more tape to hold it in place.

But It Followed Me Home Use clip art to make several copies of the same insect or bug; a grasshopper, for example. Then tell a story of a child who is followed home each day by one grasshopper, then two, then three, and as many as you want to use. Add in the consequences – crowding, noise, and so on. At last, the grasshoppers move on and the child feels relaxed – until he or she turns around and sees a worm following him. Inspired by *The Boy Who was Followed Home* by Margaret Mahy.

Two Bad Ants – Chris Van Allsburg

5 little ants finger play. Cut pieces of poster board into strips and glue a picture of an ant at one end of each. Punch a hole in the other end and thread a chenille stem through to hold them together. Use the actions from the story to reduce the number of ants from five to none: 5 little ants climbing the wall, 4 hiding in the sink, 3 jumping in the sugar, 2 falling in the coffee, etc.

