

# 2nd Grade Activity: Backyard Bugs

*There are many bugs and other critters all around us that are incredibly important to our ecosystem. Let's take a moment to observe this amazing biodiversity*

*(NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas 2.LS2.2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics;  
2.LS4.1 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity)*

## Pre-Activity Questions

- When you look out the window, what do you see?
- When you go for a walk, what do you notice?
- What are some different types of insects you can think of?

## Activity

- We share our homes, yards, neighborhoods and parks with more animals than may immediately meet the eye. Many of us have taken time to enjoy the sight of squirrels running along a fence or listened to the birds in the tree, but now we're going to take a moment to look a little closer.

## Take A Closer Look

### Materials

- Bed sheet (white is the best, but any light-colored sheet will work)
- Magnifying glass (Optional)
- Mobile device with iNaturalist (Optional)

### Steps

1. Lay the **sheet** under a tree or bush and spread it out.
2. Shake the tree or bush and the branches.
3. Observe the different bugs and debris that collects on the sheet.
4. OPTIONAL: Use a **magnifying glass** to take a closer look at some of the bugs. What do you notice?
5. OPTIONAL: Use **iNaturalist** to take photos and identify your insects.

## Post-Activity Questions and Activities

- Why are these bugs important to their ecosystem?
- What are **ecosystem services**? How would our lives be different if we didn't have insects?
- Use the **Nature Journal: Bug Observation** page to record the bugs you find.