

# Garden Creature "Bingo"

By Melissa Gibbons

- **Overview:**

- This is a structured exploration of the creatures that live in or visit your garden. This activity allows students to work together and discover the diversity of creatures found in the garden. Variations of this activity can include comparing the diversity of creatures found in other areas around the schoolyard, and/or comparing diversity of creatures found in the garden, throughout the year.

- **Materials:**

- "Bingo" sheet (sample sheet on next page)
- Clipboards
- Pencils
- Hand lens
- Trowel (optional)

- **Activity**

- The teacher explains that for this activity they will be working in pairs and each pair will receive a hand lens, clipboard, "bingo" sheet, and pencil. The pairs will have to look around the garden and try to locate creatures on the "bingo" sheet to make a "bingo" (five across, up, down, or diagonal). When one pair makes a "bingo" they have to yell "Bingo" and then the teacher records his/her names. To extend this activity, the teacher can tell the students to make two "bingos," three "bingos," the letter "T," the letter "L," or full sheet "bingo."

- **Variations**

- The teacher can have students use the "bingo" sheets to tally the number of creatures that they find in the garden in one season and then make a table or a chart with that data. In the next season, have the students make predictions about what they will find before collecting data. Then, make a simple table or chart to display the data and ask students to explain why there is more/less creatures found in these other seasons.
- Have children use the "bingo" sheets to tally the number of creatures that they find in the garden and then visit other areas around the school to collect and compare with to the garden data. The teacher can have the students make predictions about what they will find in other areas of the school before collecting data. Then make a simple table or chart to display the data and ask students to explain why there are more/less creatures found in these other areas.



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*Sample "bingo" sheet, you may want to add photos/illustrations to help students locate creatures.*

<b><u>B</u></b>	<b><u>I</u></b>	<b><u>N</u></b>	<b><u>G</u></b>	<b><u>O</u></b>
Centipede	Toad	Ant	Grasshopper	Bird
Butterfly	Worm	Ladybug	Hornet	Dragonfly
Cricket	Millipede	FREE SPACE	Fly	Garter snake
Leaf hopper	Moth	Roly poly	Mosquito	Beetle
Honey bee	Caterpillar	Aphid	Slug	Daddy long legs



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