

By Nellie Fly WORLD'S SMALLEST REPORTER

Bugs have it rough!
Insects are, for the most part, tiny and defenseless. Insects are a major food source for millions of different kinds of animals. Imagine being in

danger of being eaten every day of your life!

Luckily, we bugs have come up with some clever ways to protect ourselves from being eaten by predators.

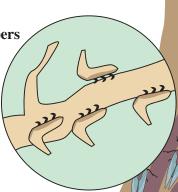


If a bug can't be seen, it won't get eaten. Cicadas sing loudly, but they are very hard to see because their bodies match the tree trunks on which they sit.

> Rain forest treehoppers or **thornbugs** look like thorns on a twig.

These bugs feed together and face the same direction to look even more like

real thorns.



Phasmids or stick insects resemble leaves or sticks. They can grow up to 20 inches long and are the longest insects in the world.



more like a leaf than a bug. How many planthoppers can you find hiding in the leaves at left?

Standards Link: Life Science: Understand insect relationships with their physical environment



How many cicadas do you see?



kinds of bugs called stinkbugs. They all have a special scent gland in the thorax that produces fluids that smell disgusting.

Some bugs can squirt this smelly fluid at attackers. If enough fluid lands on an attacker, it may kill it. Usually, it only creates a burning feeling or temporary blindness.



Look through the newspaper and find synonyms for the word **fluid**. Try replacing the word fluid on today's Kid Scoop page with each of the synonyms you found. Does the synonym change the meaning of any of the sentences?

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Identify and use synonyms and antonyms.

## **Bad Taste**

Some bugs avoid being eaten by tasting terrible. The monarch butterfly lays its eggs on milkweed plants. Its caterpillars grow up eating milkweed, which makes them taste bad. Lots of animals can't eat milkweed, because it tastes awful and even makes some animals sick.

When the caterpillar becomes a butterfly, the bitter-tasting chemicals from the

milkweed are still in its body. Birds and other predators learn that the orange and black beauty is a snack to avoid.

Standards Link: Life Science: Students know that organisms have distinct structures and body systems that serve specific functions in growth, survival and reproduction.

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at Your Library This Summer! regory wakes up to discover that he has become a giant beetle! Surprisingly, no one notices him one bit. Not even when his slippery beetle self falls

Catch the Reading Bug

down the stairs and he lies there wriggling, all six legs in the air.

Unscramble the title of this book. Then, check it out at your library this summer! - Bert Bookworm



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Read age-appropriate text in a variety of genres.

CAMOUFLAGE **SQUIRT** 

**CICADAS MILKWEED FLUID PHASMIDS** GLAND **SCENT ATTACKER TWIG MIMICS MONARCH SNACK** 

**EGGS** 

**BUGS** 

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

HOTWTNECSN DEEWKLIMDA SMIMICSIIT GOKSAGUTMT G L C D Q L B T S A EGALFUOMAC OSNNGBIEHK E A S S D T E R P E NHCRANOMTR

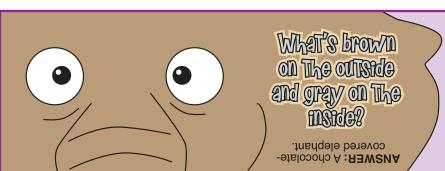
**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

# FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

#### **Buggy Adjectives**

Look through the newspaper and find 10 adjectives that describe one or more of the bugs on today's Kid Scoop page. Use these adjectives to write a paragraph about the lives of bugs.

**Standards Link:** Grammar: Identify and use adjectives in reading and writing.



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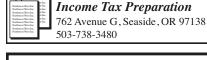
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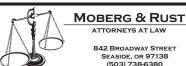


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