

Keep this sheet.
Collect them all!



Explore your world with this Science-to-Go backpack

BACKYARD ANIMALS

Preschool

Books in this backpack

- **Are You a Snail?**
by Judy Allen
- **Bee Dance**
by Rick Chrustowski
- **Have You Heard the Nesting Bird?**
by Rita Gray
- **Just Ducks!**
by Nicola Davies
- **Secrets of the Garden**
by Kathleen Weiner Zoehfield

Idea!

Spend some time looking at the cover of the books. Ask your child to tell you what they see. What does the cover tell them about the book?

More books
at your
library

About Birds. Cathryn Sill. E598
Can You Tell a Butterfly From a Moth? Buffy Silverman. E595.78
A Chicken Followed Me Home. Robin Page. E636.5
First Big Book of Bugs. Catherine D. Hughes. E595.7
Yucky Worms. Vivian French. E French

Local Connection

Play
"I Spy"
with an animal
theme in the backyard
or at a neighborhood park.



ACTIVITY

Pill Bugs Love Water

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Pill bugs (also called roly-polys, sow bugs, potato bugs, etc.) are one of the easiest animals to find and trap—your child is likely already familiar with them. But does she know that a pill bug isn't an insect, but a crustacean? Their closest "cousins" are aquatic animals like shrimp and lobsters. In this activity, your child will observe pill bugs and their affinity for water.

What you need:

- Outdoor area to explore
- Collecting container (milk or yogurt carton works well)
- Observation container with lid (plastic dish or petri dish)
- Paper towel
- Sand
- Pill bug food (apple core, lettuce leaf, etc.)
- Water

Try this:

1. Hunt for pill bugs. You'll find them anywhere damp and dark—under a log is a great place to start. Observe in place, then gather for study. Be sure to return the log to its original position!
2. Ask your child to describe a pill bug. Does it look like an insect? (All insects have three body parts, six legs and antennae.)
3. Place two small pieces of paper towel next to each other in an observation container—one damp, one dry. Add the pill bugs. Where do they go?
4. Pill bugs like to burrow, and they like the damp—just like their aquatic crustacean "cousins." Your child will see the pill bugs go under the damp paper towel.
5. If your child wants to keep the pill bugs, create a larger habitat. Include wet sand and a small log. Poke holes in the lid, dampen sand and add food regularly.

Adapted from "Creepy Crawlies and the Scientific Method" Sally Kneidel, 2015.

Rhyme

The Ants Go Marching

The ants go marching
one by one,
Hurrah, hurrah.
The ants go marching
one by one,
Hurrah, hurrah.
The ants go marching
one by one,
The little one stops
to suck his thumb,
And they all go
marching down
into the ground
to get out
of the rain,
BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Field Notebook

Add something to the field notebook!

Walk around your neighborhood. Together, list all the animals you observe in the field notebook. Or encourage your child to draw a particular critter in the field notebook.