

SIMPLE SCIENCE

Ladybugs: Looking & Counting



TEACHER'S GUIDE

- Time** Approximately 1 hour
- Purpose** Build an important science skill—observation.
Living ladybugs are quite different from cartoon versions.
- Materials** Ladybugs; ziplock snack or sandwich bags; handout; pencil (one each for each student or group)
- Background** Many people don't realize that the orange spotted parts of the ladybug's body are not wings. They are wing covers that protect tiny, black gossamer wings that you can see as the ladybug takes off from your finger.
- Looking Closely**
- Place one ladybug in each bag and zip it closed. Pass out bags and handouts to students or groups. Remind students/groups to put their names on the handout.
 - Work with students to really look at the ladybugs. Answer each question by circling or filling the correct answer.
 - You can leave the ladybugs in the bags for a few hours. Take a recess and come back later to count spots.
- Counting Spots**
- Do all ladybugs have the same number of spots?
 - Pass out the "Counting Spots" page.
 - Look closely at the spots on the ladybug. Draw spots on the ladybug picture to match your live ladybug. THIS IS HARD! Take your time.
 - Count spots and put the number in the square at the top of the page.
 - When everyone has finished counting, put all the numbers on your blackboard or on a big sheet of paper. Are the numbers the same or different? Do all of your ladybugs have the same number of spots? Are you sure? Did everyone in class count right?
- Finishing Up**
- Take your ladybugs outside and set them free. Let a ladybug crawl on your finger and blow it away. Can you see the wings? If the ladybug won't fly, gently set it on a leaf or on the ground.
 - Collect bags and save for next year's ladybug activities.



Looking at Ladybug Beetles

Name _____

What do you see when you look closely?

1 Do you see legs? Yes No

2 Do you see hands? Yes No

3 Do you see spots? Yes No

4 What color are the spots? _____

5 Do you see a nose? Yes No

6 Do you see wings? Yes No

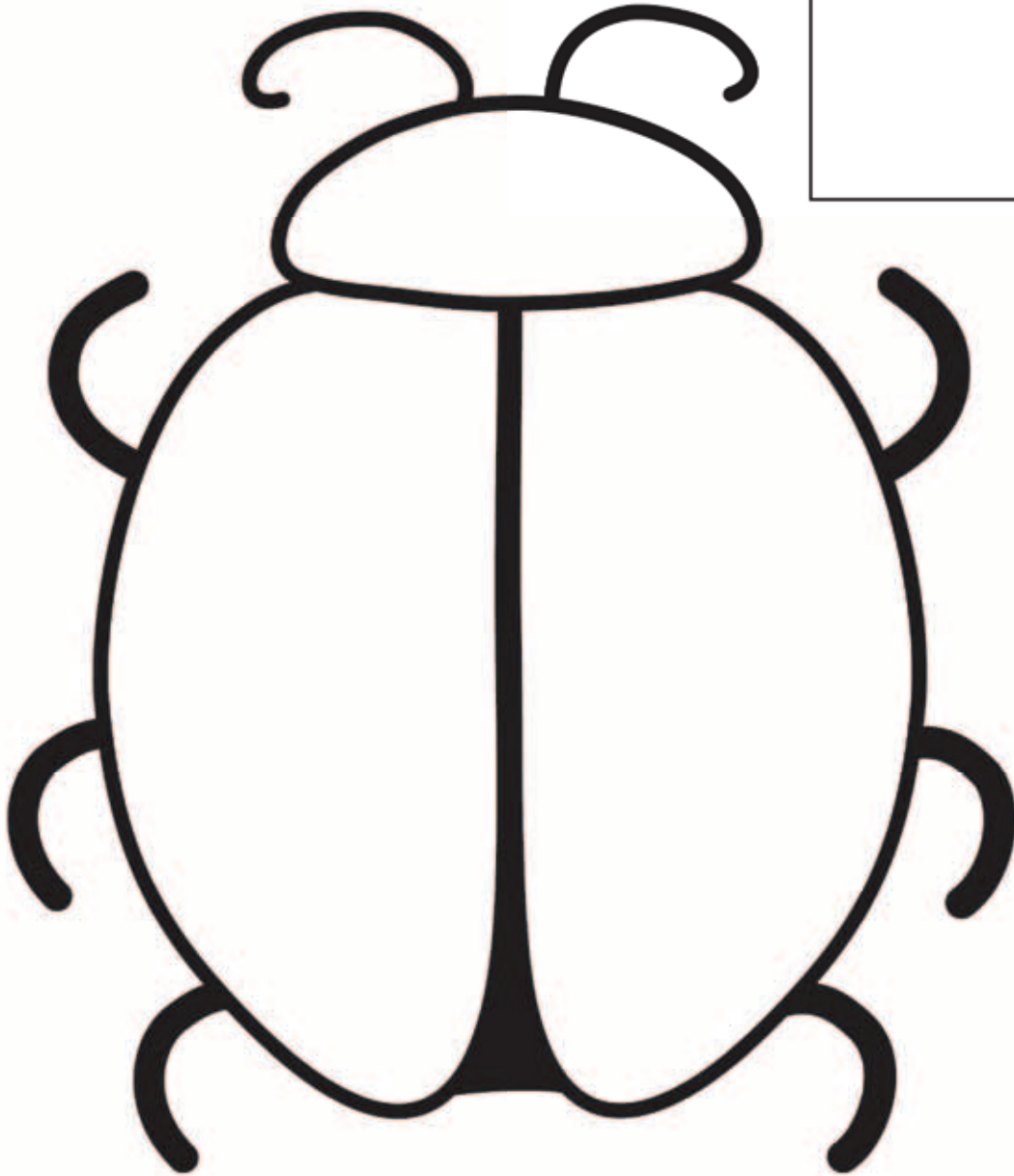
7 What colors do you see?

black blue orange white green



Ladybug

Number of spots



Draw the spots on this ladybug picture.