

Guide to “Look At a Ladybug” and “Count Spots”

Time: “Look At A Ladybug” 30 minutes; “Count Spots” 40 minutes
(including 10 minute discussion at end of activity)

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 part of the ladybugs body are not wings. They are wing covers that protect tiny, black gossamer wings that you can see as the lady bug takes off from your finger. Read more at www.earthsbirthday.org/butterflies/ladybugs/activities.asp.

Look at a Ladybug:

- Place one ladybug in each bag and zip. 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 ladybugs. Answer each question by coloring the circle or circles with a pencil.
- You can leave ladybugs in bags for a few hours. Take a recess and come back later to count spots.

Count Spots:

- Do all ladybugs have the same number of spots?
- Pass out the “Count Spots” page.
- Look closely at the spots on the lady. 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.

Look At a Ladybug

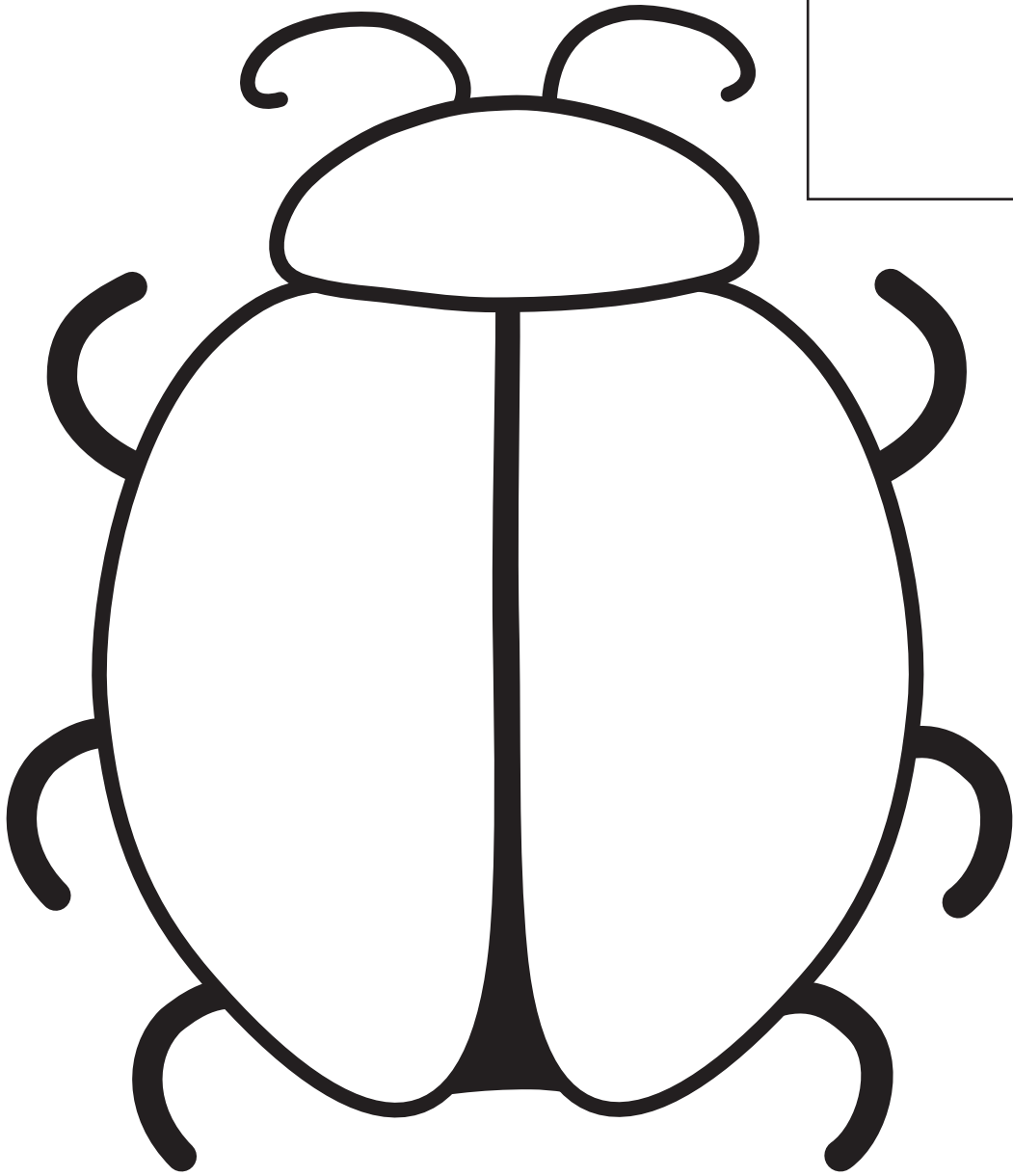


What do you see
when you look close?

- 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.

Your Name _____