

INSECT ADVENTURES

You do not need to go to Africa or Siberia to study exciting wild animals. There are many wild creatures living exciting lives in your neighborhood! You can watch thrilling predator-prey relationships in your backyard. You can see complex courtship dances and hideous scare tactics in your local park. Look about in the tall grass or forests around your home for any of the many strange bugs that share your neighborhood.

Before you catch it, watch it carefully in the wild to see what you can learn. Take careful notes about its movement, behavior, and relationships to the plants and animals in its environment. GENTLY catch it, and answer these questions:

Where does it live? Describe its habitat or home:

What does it eat? Plants or other bugs? (Look closely at its mouth parts for clues.)

What might eat it? Other bugs, birds, mammals, What kinds?

What type of protection does it use?

What colors do you see? Are these the colors of Camouflage? Warning? Attraction?

How does it move? What body parts does it use?

Is it a pest? Or a helper? Support your answer with facts and hypotheses.

Now carefully draw your bug and label the parts:

Antennae
Head
Eyes

Abdomen
Wings

Thorax
Legs

And gently let it go.

Use this information to help you write your own creepy crawly haiku!