**Bug Hunt Game**

**Materials**

* A magnifying glass
* A hunting ground - backyard, garden, or local park
* A notebook and pens for keeping track of what you find and where
* A field guide to bugs and/or a smartphone (optional but recommended)

**How to Play**

1. Start by finding a place to look for bugs.  Backyard gardens or nearby green spaces are obvious places to start.
	* **The goal is to find and observe as many bugs as possible.  The kid who finds the most wins!**
	* Don't touch the bugs you find!  This will help avoid any potential bites/stings.
2. When you’re bug hunting, search as a team and in the same place.  Ask your accompanying adult to flip over logs, stones, and objects to ensure everybody is safe.
3. Start with flowering plants ⏤ they’re essentially insect hotels when in bloom ⏤ before moving to areas of exposed soil, moist dirt, or plant beds covered with wood chips or straw.  Don’t forget the grass too!
	* Butterflies, bees, wasps and the like are among the most common finds, but when you look closer, you’re likely to see an incredible variety of other insects that thrive by blending in ⏤ leafhoppers, aphids & walking sticks for example​.
	* A magnifying glass can be especially useful here, as some insects are just flat-out tiny!
4. For each bug that you find, scribble down some details about it, including: what it looked like, how many legs/wings it had, where you found it, what it was doing, and what you think it eats.  Sketch out a quick picture too.
5. If you’re having trouble identifying a bug, don’t worry — just snap a photo with a smartphone (or do a quick search), narrow the bug down to a more general group (beetles, ants, bees, etc.), and move on.
	* Remember: the object is to find many bugs.  Don’t get bogged down trying to identify each one on the spot — you can do that later around the computer.

​

https://www.fatherly.com/play/bug-hunt-kids-game/