

# Thumbprint Bugs

Let's get creative and make some thumbprint bugs in a spider's web. Did you know a spider eats about 2,000 insects in a year? Let's discover what your spider is having for dinner tonight!

## Background:

We are outnumbered by bugs! There are more bugs on this planet than there are humans. Wow! Bugs are invertebrates and do not have a backbone or vertebrae. Humans are NOT invertebrates, we have backbones. Go ahead and feel your backbone! Can you think of other animals that are invertebrates (no backbone)? What other things do you notice? Where is their skeleton? How does their skeleton protect them?

## Bugs can include:

- ~ Arachnids, like spiders, scorpions, mites, and ticks. Arachnids have eight legs.
- ~ Myriapods, such as centipedes and millipedes
- ~ Annelids, like worms.

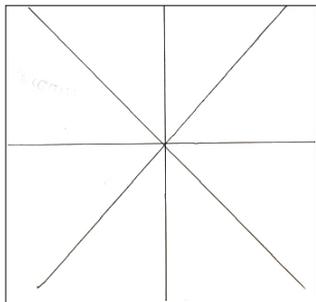
Insects, like ladybugs, beetles, butterflies, and so much more, are the largest group of bugs with over one million identified species in the world. Insects are characterized by having six legs and three body parts; head, thorax and abdomen. Do you have a favourite bug? Where would you find this bug, under a rock, in the soil, on flowers?

## Materials:

Construction paper, markers, tempera paint or finger paint, cups, paintbrush

## To Make Your Thumbprint Bugs:

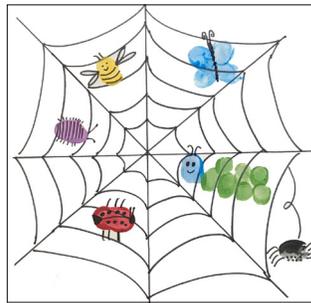
1. Begin by drawing a spider's web. Using a marker, draw a cross on the construction paper, one horizontal line and one vertical line.



2. Draw diagonals. All lines should intersect in the middle.
3. Start weaving your web by making arches all the way around. Draw approximately 5 or 6 arched lines all the way around.

4. Add small amounts of paint to the cups.

5. Begin with the spider. Using a brush, rub a bit of black paint to your thumb and gently press it to your paper.



Let it dry. Once the paint is dry, use a black marker to add eight legs, four legs on each side! (Bugs are symmetrical, same number of legs on each side.) You can also add eyes to your spider. Most spiders have eight eyes.

6. Wash and dry your hands if you are switching paint colours.

7. Get creative and draw some of your favourite bugs in the spider's web. You can draw a ladybug, beetle, caterpillar, dragonfly, bumblebee, there are so many invertebrates you can choose from. What your spider will have for dinner is up to you.

**Pick a bug, pick a colour, pick a thumb and away you go!**

**Tip:** For smaller bugs, try using a finger instead of a thumb.

**Tip:** Be sure to let the paint dry before adding legs, eyes, antennas, or even stingers.

Don't forget to wash your hands when you are finished to remove all that colourful paint from thumbs and fingers.

## Fun facts:

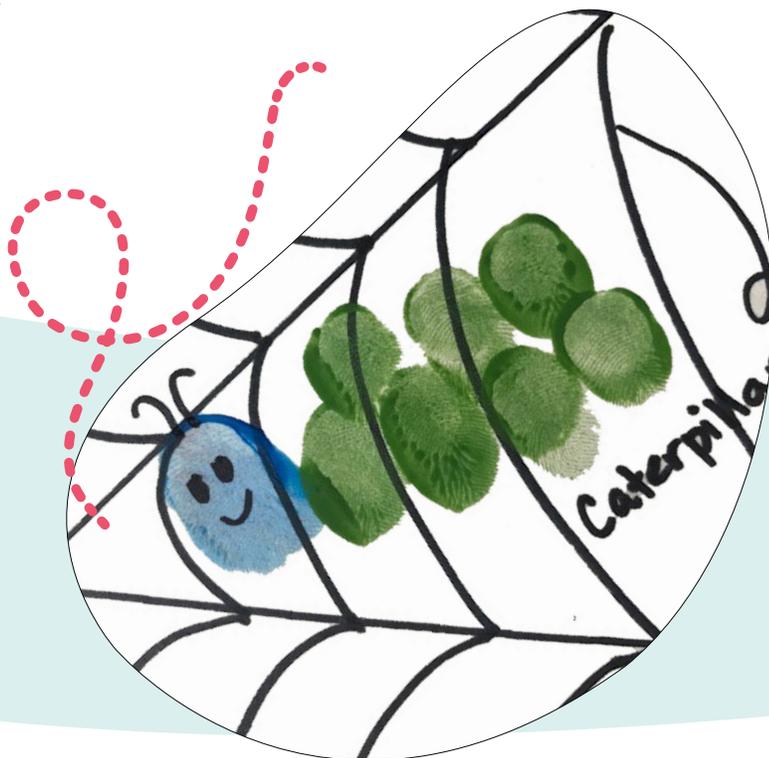
- ~ Insects live on every continent....but barely.
- ~ There is only one type of insect native to Antarctica, the flightless Antarctic midge!
- ~ Invertebrates have their skeleton outside of their body. It is called an exoskeleton.

**Want to know more about Bugs?** Read our **blog**.



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# Extension Activities

You can enhance the learning with virtual hands-on workshops for classrooms and community settings.



## Intriguing Invertebrates

For Grades 1 or 2, depending on province.

Who has thousands of teeth?

Who can float on water? Are you intrigued?

Students will learn about the invertebrates in their own backyards by creating models of these creatures. Physical characteristics, habitats they live in, the way they move and eat will be investigated with hands-on and engaging activities.



## Science Meets Art!

For kids ages 4-12

Science meets art in this workshop!

Explore perception as you use shadows, colour, motion, and light to create art from science! You'll make a puppet, a spinning top and a kaleidoscope, as well as design your own galaxy. "The greatest scientists are always artists as well." (Albert Einstein)

For more information about our virtual workshops, please visit

<https://www.scientistsinschool.ca/workshops/>