



# Garden Lesson 4: Garden Guests & Pests

**SCIENCE**  
Observe, Identify, Match,  
Build, Research

**MATHEMATICS**  
Measure

**LANGUAGE ARTS**  
Comprehend, Read, Write,  
Describe

**VISUAL ARTS**  
Design, Draw, Create,  
Colour

## 4.1 INTRODUCTION

Gardens receive a lot of "visitors" - but which are welcome guests, and which are unwanted pests? Some friendly visitors, such as pollinators, increase plant health and help with seed production; other friendly visitors will hunt or drive away smaller pests. Harmful visitors can destroy plants or spread disease.

**Lesson 4** will explore how to recognize some of the most common garden visitors and determine whether they are helpful or harmful to the garden, as well as some ways to attract more pollinators to a garden.

## 4.2 GARDEN VISITOR MATCHING GAME

Can you tell the difference between harmful and helpful garden visitors? Draw a line to match each visitor to its description. Answers at the bottom of the page.



**BUTTERFLY**



**APHID**



**SLUG**



**BEE**

**1**

I'm a great climber, and will climb up plants to eat their leaves.

**2**

I'm a pollinator. Some gardeners might mistake me for a flower.

**3**

I eat everything in a garden from roots to tips. I leave trails of slime.

**4**

I look small and delicate, but I protect your garden from pests.

**5**

I attach myself to leaves and stems to steal nutrients.

**6**

I am a helpful pollinator. Don't mistake me for a wasp!

**7**

I can give a nasty pinch. I can eat both plants and other pests.

**8**

I stand out due to my bright colour. I eat harmful pests.



**EARWIG**



**LADYBUG**



**LACEWING**



**SNAIL**

## TIPS AND TOOLS

Here are a few suggested ways to prevent common garden pests:

### BIRDS

Attract birds to the garden with birdhouses, feeders, and bird baths. Birds eat many insects, including beetles, caterpillars, earwigs, snails, and slugs.

### WATER / SOAP

Blast aphids, spider mites, whiteflies or other small pests with water from a hose, or mix water with a few drops of dish soap and spritz on plants to deter many harmful insects.

### PIT TRAPS

In shallow container, mix sugar water with a bit of yeast for slugs and snails, or olive oil and soy sauce for earwigs. Place container on top of soil in the garden so pests will climb into the trap and get stuck.

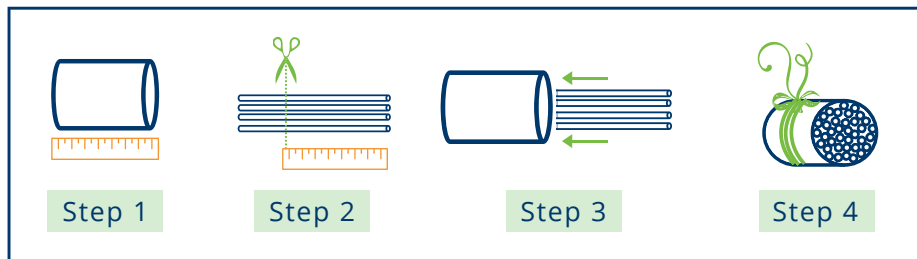


### 4.3 BUILD A BEE HOTEL

1. Make sure that one end of the recycled container is open; this will be the front. Measure the length of the container from the open end to the closed end.
2. Using scissors, cut straws to be the same length as your container. If using newspaper, scrap paper or old magazines instead of straws, roll the paper into small tubes about the width of a pencil. Use a piece of tape to secure each paper tube and cut to the correct length with scissors. Close one end of each tube with a piece of tape.
3. Insert the straws or paper tubes into the recycled container until all of the space is filled. Make sure that the open ends of the tubes are at the front of the container so that bees can crawl inside.
4. Tie a string, yarn or ribbon securely around the outside of the bee hotel. Use this string to hang the bee condo in a warm, sunny place that will be sheltered from bad weather. Bees that have no hive, such as Mason bees, will use these tubes as nests.

*Optional: Use a shallow dish or recycled tray to create a "pollinator pool." Fill with a small amount of water. Add a few smooth stones that sit above the surface of the water and place the "pool" near the bee hotel so that bees, butterflies and birds can use it as a water source and place to rest. Change the water every week to keep it fresh.*

#### 4.3 EXAMPLE:



### 4.4 KEEP TRACK OF GARDEN VISITORS

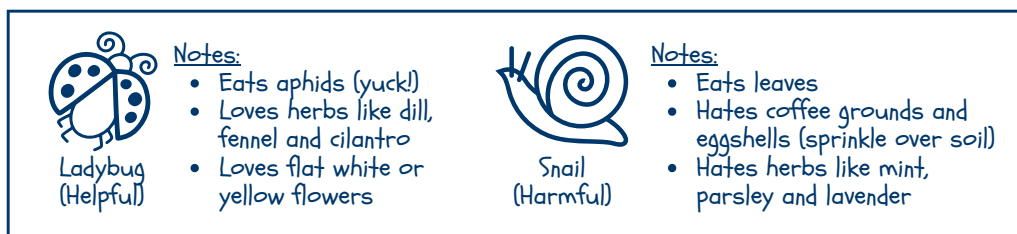
1. In the garden journal, write "Garden Visitors" at the top of the next blank page. The following activity will be completed on this page.
2. Visit or observe the garden at different times of the day. Look for visitors, such as birds, bugs or other small critters.
3. Choose two or three visitors and draw a picture of each. Use a magnifying glass if necessary to see them close up.
4. Research the visitors you've drawn using the internet, the library or a local gardener to learn more about them. Find out whether the visitors are helpful or harmful and write that underneath each drawing, along with their name.

*Optional: Write short notes beside the picture as a reminder. For example:*

*If helpful, how? How can the garden attract more of them?*

*If harmful, how? What is the best way to repel them?*

#### 4.4 EXAMPLE:



#### 4.3 MATERIALS:

- Recycled container
  - Some examples include a tin can or a 1L yogurt container. Make sure that it is washed and dried.
- Newspaper, scrap paper, old magazines or used drinking straws
- Measuring tape or ruler
- Tape
- Scissors
- Pencil
- String, yarn or ribbon

#### OPTIONAL:

- Craft supplies for decorating
- Shallow dish or recycled tray for a "pollinator pool"
- Smooth stones

#### 4.4 MATERIALS:

- Garden journal
- Pen or pencil

#### OPTIONAL:

- Magnifying glass
- Coloured pencils or markers



### TIPS AND TOOLS

Did you know that some pollinators have favourite colours? Growing plants in a pollinator's favourite colours may attract more of them to the garden.

Bees love purple, blue, violet, white and yellow. Butterflies love white, pink, purple, red, yellow and orange.

